

LX No. 5
Faculty Senate Minutes
September 24, 2025

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, in Dempster Hall Room 128. The following Senators were present: Larry Bohannon, Abram Book, Christopher Bradley, Jenny Cropp, Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Pam Gershuny, Arusha Ijaz Barbara Lamont, Hayley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Belinda McMurry, Jenna Moore (Chair), Joe Murphy (Chair-Elect), Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Kyle Schneider, Robin Smith, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, David Yaskewich. Interim Vice Provost Michelle Brune, and SGA Liaison Layne Collier were also present. The following alternates were present: Marikit Fain and Joeseph Snyder. The following proxy was present: Juefei Yuan.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- Chair Jenna Lee Moore called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.
- Minutes from the September 10, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved without corrections.

Guest Speaker: Dayna Northington, Textbook Rental Manager

Redhawk Food Pantry

- Planning a food drive in November to support students during winter break.
- Noted increased use by international students who remained on campus due to geopolitical issues.
- Pantry includes a freezer stocked with microwavable meals.
- **Donation Guidelines:**
 - Preferred items: plain rice, beans, soups, peanut butter, Nutella, jams, shelf-stable milk.
 - Donations must be in original store packaging.
 - Personal hygiene items also accepted.
- Drop-off available at textbook rental during university hours.

- Pantry temporarily closed due to a water leak; repairs underway.
- Received 100 boxes of fresh produce via Lincoln University grant (now expired).
- Partnering with Boy Scouts for November food drive.
- Volunteers welcome; contact Dayna via email.

Textbook Rental Updates

- Fully staffed with new associate Fletcher Minton and experienced temp workers.
- Construction near Dearmont affecting access; alternate routes provided.
- Rental eligibility:
 - Undergraduate students and select graduate students (500-level, merged 3/500 and 4/600).
 - Standalone 600-level graduate courses are currently ineligible.
- Shipping fees for online students: \$9.95 for first book, \$3.95 for each additional.
- Rental rate: \$36.49 per course.
- Faculty may borrow textbooks if available; must return within 14 days post-semester.
- **Policy Proposal:**
 - Allow textbook rental for standalone 600-level graduate courses.
 - Would require policy change in faculty handbook (currently prohibits rentals for 600+ level).
 - Potential rollout in Fall 2026.
 - Discussion on adjusting rental fees for graduate courses to offset costs.
 - Faculty feedback generally supportive; concerns about affordability and recruitment addressed.

Old Business

Bill 26-A-3: Restoring Step III.G. to the Formal Grievance Process (Second Reading)

Motion to Approve; Senator Murphy, seconded; Senator Taylor

Purpose of the Bill:

- The bill proposes reinstating Step III.G. in the formal grievance process, which had previously been removed.
- Step III.G. involves the Faculty Senate Executive Committee receiving the final report from the grievance committee, allowing for proper oversight and procedural closure.

Discussion

- **Concerns from Grievance Committee Members:**
 - Some members of the Grievance Committee communicated through the chairs of the Governance committee that they had not had sufficient time to review the bill.
 - A request was made to table the bill to allow for further discussion and feedback from the committee.
 - Senators debated whether the Grievance Committee's input was necessary for this specific procedural change.
- **Arguments Against Tabling:**
 - Chair Moore and other senators noted that the bill had already been reviewed during the previous academic year and again at the last Senate meeting.
 - It was emphasized that the bill does not alter the Grievance Committee's internal procedures but rather clarifies the reporting structure to the Senate Executive Committee.
 - The change would prevent the Senate Chair from having to insert themselves into grievance proceedings prematurely, thereby preserving the autonomy of the Grievance Committee.
- **Procedural Clarifications:**
 - Senators discussed whether tabling the bill would delay necessary updates to the Faculty Handbook.
 - It was confirmed that no immediate deadlines would be missed, but a grievance occurring before the passage of the bill could be affected by the current lack of clarity.

Motion to table the bill; Senator Gershuny, seconded; Senator Bohannon

Motion to table the bill was opposed with majority vote:

- Votes in Favor: 11
- Votes opposed: 12
- Abstentions: 3

Impact:

- The reinstatement of Step III.G. ensures that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee receives grievance reports, improving transparency and procedural consistency.
- The change is expected to streamline the grievance process and clarify roles for future cases.

Motion to approve; Senator Moore, seconded; Senator Taylor

- Bill passed with majority vote:
 - Votes in favor: 23
 - Votes opposed: 1
 - Abstentions: 2

New Business

Resolution 26-2: Adding Student Evaluation Questions to SmartEvals Motion to introduce was made by Senator Schneider, seconded Senator Murphy

- Purpose: Ensure compliance with state law requiring public reporting of two evaluation questions:
 1. Instructor cared about student learning.
 2. Instructor contributed to better understanding of the course.
- Proposal to integrate questions into SmartEvals to streamline student responses.
- Concerns raised:

1. Data gaps and missing historical responses.
 2. Privacy and response rate issues.
 3. Confusion among students due to multiple surveys.
 4. Lack of clarity on data handling and reporting.
- Senators asked to gather departmental feedback before next meeting.
 - Chair will follow up with CTL and Institutional Research for clarification.

Discussion: RNTT Designations: Corrie Dudley

- Proposal to allow departments to adopt discipline-specific titles for RNTT faculty.
- Current title “Instructor” may not reflect roles accurately.
- Peer institutions offer varied titles (e.g., Artist in Residence, Librarian, Clinical Instructor).
- Departments asked to submit preferred titles via form by October 14.
- Change would affect titles only, not duties or merit structures.
- Discussion included:
 - Concerns about hierarchy and equity.
 - Potential impact on recruiting and professional identity.
 - Clarification that merit and contract structures would remain unchanged.

Reports

Chair – Jenna Lee Moore

- Budget Review Committee:
 - Four faculty representatives to be selected.
 - Chair of Compensation Committee will serve as one representative.
 - Membership Committee to select remaining candidates.
- Johnson Faculty Center rate increases to \$50/night starting January 1, 2026.
- Faculty social hour scheduled for Friday, 5–7 PM at Events.

Administrative Liaison – Interim Vice Provost Michelle Brune

- EMS Search Committee reviewing 50 applicants; interviews expected in November.
- Strategic planning underway with Huron Consulting Group; implementation by June 2026.
- Enrollment updates:
 - Down 618 students overall, including 494 international.
 - Up in Cape County (4%), regional (10%), and domestic first-year (7%) and transfer (10%).

SGA – Layne Collier

- Approved funding for inauguration promo items.
- T-shirts and stickers to be distributed.
- Inauguration Committee to present next week.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs – Kyle Schneider:** Working on resolution to create a task force.
- **Compensation – Erin Fluegge:** First meeting will be held on October 15th.
- **Documents – Michael Bezushko (reported by Larry):** Reviewing handbook compliance and formatting.
- **Governance – Joshua Newth & Robin Smith:** Met and continuing work.
- **Professional Affairs – Corrie Dudley:** Working on RNTT designation form and tenure/promotion timeline.
- **Membership – Hayley Love:** Coordinating Budget Review Committee nominations.
- **Johnson Faculty Center – Joe Murphy:** Fee increase confirmed; curtain request pending.

Announcements

- **Theatre Production:** “Grease” opens Thursday, runs through Sunday.

- **Forum Event:** “Good Night, and Good Luck” panel discussion on October 8 at Rose Theatre.
- **Choir Concert:** October 9 at 7:30 PM.
- **Observatory Event:** Scheduled for tomorrow, weather permitting.
- **COVID Vaccine Coverage:** Faculty advised to check with insurance provider.

Motion to adjourn; Senator Taylor, seconded; Senator Schneider

- Meeting adjourned at 4:52PM with a reminder of the next meeting on October 8th in the UC Redhawks room