

**LIX No. 3**  
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**August 28, 2024**

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, in the Redhawks Room of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Michael Aide, Michael Bezushko, Larry Bohannon, Abram Book, Christopher Bradley, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp (Chair), Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Barbara Lamont, Haley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Jenna Moore (Chair-Elect), Joe Murphy, Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Kyle Schneider, Robin Smith, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, and David Yaskewich. Interim Provost Doug Koch was present. The following alternates were present: Shay Cecil. Pam Gershuny, Andy Liu, and Sophia Scott were not present or represented by alternates.

Chair Cropp called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. She introduced Lydia Pobst, SGA Student Body President. Lydia highlighted some of the projects that the SGA will be working on this year. Among those include making student identifications online, having an ADA door button at Starbucks, and ways to improve the campus tour route and campus beautification ideas. She also said that the SGA wants to update or remove parking meters and hopes to improve campus engagement, getting students more involved in events and activities. Lydia said that the SGA student representative for the faculty senate will hopefully be identified over the next couple of weeks.

Chair Cropp informed the senate that she had read Robert's Rules of Order over the summer and found that minutes can be approved by general consent; that motions or votes are not needed. She asked if there were any corrections needed from the May 1, 2024, meeting. Since there were no corrections needed, the minutes were approved as circulated and will be posted on the webpage.

Up next, Chair Cropp asked for a motion to approve the legislative committees as they stand as there are unfilled at large seats so that legislative committees can begin meeting. Senator Bohannon made the motion; seconded by Senator Fluegge. A vote was called, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Chair's Report:**

Chair Cropp attended an Administrative Council meeting over the summer and was informed that the university had been able to present a balanced budget to the Board of Governors using one-time funds. There was a 3% increase in state appropriations and there is also a \$300,000 surplus; however, it is most likely from the one-time funds. The HLC self-study was due on July 22<sup>nd</sup>; it was completed and submitted. Lactation rooms have been updated and two lactation pods were purchased for the UC and the River campus. Also, new language has been added to the syllabus template to use this fall for Title IX; includes language on pregnancy and parental accommodations. Chair Cropp also reported that the health sciences building timeline has been pushed back about a year due to an environmental compliance study required for federal funding. Dr. Koch added that the historical component had also caused the delay as documentation must be presented to the state. The new building may be ready by fall 2027 and demolition of Dearmont may begin spring 2025 or summer. Chair Cropp informed the senate about a bill that had been in the state legislature proposing to change the CORE 42 to CORE 60 that did not pass.

The Office of Admissions is considering a master recruitment program similar to the advising master advisor program. IT has purchased 15 licenses for AI Copilot. Chair Cropp said that she had heard some concerns about individuals with mobility issues and centralized scheduling. She announced that if you have mobility issues, contact HR. Accommodations can be inputted into the centralized scheduling software so that individuals would not be scheduled in inaccessible buildings. Chair Cropp reported that the faculty senate had teamed with the PSC and CTS and created goodie bags for the DPS—29 bags.

**Interim Provost's Report:**

Dr. Koch heard comments about centralized scheduling issues. He said that there are some bugs to work out and that they will be trying to determine the value centralized scheduling has provided. Dr. Koch said that they hope to plan a major AI event. He also talked about the focus for the coming year—quality, mode and timing of delivery, and instructional spaces. He stressed the importance of consistency of instruction. Also, told senators that CTL can assist faculty in developing course templates. Dr. Koch responded to concerns from faculty about timely notifications of campus security issues. He said that he would convey concerns.

**SGA Report:** No report

**Academic Affairs:** Discussed charges for the year which include reviewing curriculum processes, graduation resolutions, reviewing the Smart Evals timeline and possibly merging public facing evals with Smart Evals.

**Compensation:** Will be providing the compensation recommendation memo; will continue to work on the sick leave policy; will also continue to work with the PSC and CTS and provide assistance as they review their compensation structure and benefits structure; and will review summer chair stipends, winter intersession and overload pay to determine how the formulas for pay were established.

**Documents:** Will be working on the constitution and by-laws so that they better reflect current practices; will be working with the Governance committee on a constitutional amendment on Article 4 regarding elections. Will also be working on a procedure to archive senate records and digitally organize senate records in TEAMS. Another charge will identify and suggest edits for outdated faculty handbook references to old numbers and letter system of organization.

**Governance:** Will have three charges: review the website for compliance with by-laws and research feasibility of an online form for engaging faculty and discussion about faculty senate issues; work with the membership and documents committees to develop a constitutional amendment for Article 4 on elections with the goal to align the constitution bylaws to better reflect current practices and to work with membership to create or update bylaws concerning the membership committee's procedures for selecting nominees for university committees.

**Professional Affairs:** Will have three charges: review chairperson duties and policy for summer sessions; review current tenure and promotion guidelines; review emeriti bills. Will also work on creating a new term for RNTT faculty.

**Membership:** One of the charges is to fill the legislative and reporting committees. Will also work with the governance committee to possibly establish term limits and rotations for the GRFC and grievance committees as it offers more equity to those wanting to serve on those

committees. Will also work with governance on selecting nominees for university committees and on developing a constitutional amendment for Article 4 on elections to realign what is in the constitution with what is actually being done.

**Johnson Faculty Centre:** No report

**Announcements:**

**Murphy:** September 4—Deep Sky—first event held at the new observatory (soft opening)

**Taylor:** Glenn Smart Carvings at Crisp Museum through December

**Lamont:** Faculty Recital, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm at Shuck Music Recital Hall

**Adjournment:** Chair Cropp called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Taylor made the motion; seconded by Senator Murphy. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

**The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11 from 3-5 pm in the Redhawks Room of the University Center.**