

**LVI No. 5**  
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**October 20, 2021**

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 in the Redhawks Room of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Larry Bohannon, Marcus Bond, Vera Campbell Jones, Shannon Clapsaddle, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp, Erin Fluegge, Susan Fulton, Stephanie Hallam, Joni Hand, Laura Hatcher (Chair), Lesly Krome, Kim Louie (Chair-Elect), Hayley Love, Belinda McMurry, Jenna Moore, Pam Parry, Tim Schmidt, Songyon Shin, Mike Taylor, Julie Weathers, David Yaskewich, and James Youn. Provost Mike Godard was also present. The following alternates were present: William McNeary, and Beverly Evans. Andy Liu was not present nor represented by an alternate.

Before the meeting began Chair Hatcher asked for a moment of silence to be observed for Dr. R.W. McAlister who recently passed away. She asked that Dr. McAlister's many years of service and his memory be a blessing to faculty and to those who knew him.

Chair Hatcher introduced the new administrative assistant, Patsy Seabaugh. She asked the Senators to include her on email to the admin should they request assistance.

Drs. Odegard-Koester and Faber presented and facilitated a discussion on faculty wellness, self-care, and work-life balance. Faculty described some of the challenges and struggles they have been faced with and agreed that support and resources are needed. Some concerns discussed included: loss of faculty, increased workloads, missing infrastructure in classrooms, university closed—how should that be addressed on syllabi, and student stress. Coping methods discussed included: thought stopping, mindfulness, and spending time with junior colleagues. EAP programs are available for faculty and on campus counseling is available for students. Also, surrounding oneself with people/pets who bring joy and engaging in things that provide joy. Dr. Odegard-Koester emphasized the importance of working together to face the challenges instead of reacting. Dr. Fluegge mentioned work on a website for a list of resources for faculty and Dr. Odegard-Koester said that new faculty check-ins were going to be held. Dr. Faber announced a new certificate consisting of 9 hours in trauma and resiliency studies.

A motion to consider the bill was made by Chair-Elect Louie, and seconded by Belinda McMurry. Academic Affairs Chair, Senator Schmidt, read **FACULTY SENATE BILL 2021-A-X** into the record, and led the first reading discussion of the bill. This bill revises the existing "Class Attendance Policy" portion of the Faculty Handbook. Items during the reading and discussion included: whether the OMVS approved of how students are referred to in the policy; how SFS reports compliance of military affiliated students; extension of incompletes; international students and military obligations. A second reading, with proposed amendments, is expected in the next meeting of the full Senate. At 4:17 p.m. Chair Hatcher committed **BILL 2021-A-X** to departments for discussion and feedback.

### **Chairs Report**

Chair Hatcher and Chris Baranovic have been meeting and plan to discuss shared governance with VP of Finance, Brad Sheriff. She has also been getting the administrative assistant's office ready.

### **Provost's Report**

The provost asked that all remind and encourage students, faculty, and staff to upload their Covid-19 vaccine information or to get their vaccines. We still need 350 or 360 to get vaccinated or upload their information. There were 3 active cases as of October 20th—2 students and 1 employee. The Newswire will run this week with the updated draft version of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP). There are 2 more meetings, then Board of Governors will consider the SAP at the December 17th meeting. Kent Library received \$500,00 from COVID-19 funds to purchase databases. The university is in the 3rd year of 12.5% budget cuts and Academic Affairs has 1.1 million to address. Some challenging decisions will have to be made.

The provost was asked if students can be asked to leave class for not wearing facial covering and he said they could. He said it could be treated as a classroom management issue. If faculty feel threatened, DPS can be called. He was also asked about an extension on the budget cuts and said that no conversations had been held to discuss extensions. He looks forward to a balanced budget which may result in vacant lines going unfilled.

### **SGA Report**

Allison Lauter discussed a philanthropy project for Jefferson Elementary School. WyKeshia Atkins has asked for \$75,000 for tutorial certificates. Also mentioned a new software called Presence and job shadowing which will hopefully help students keep their majors and with retention.

**Academic Affairs:** Senator Schmidt stated that the committee was working on a Faculty Senate resolution to support 1 hour and 45-minute final exams before it goes to the Registrar

**Compensation:** No Report

**Documents:** Faculty Handbook edits have been forwarded to the Executive Committee. They await further instructions.

**Governance:** Senator Cropp stated that they continue to work on the conflict of interest policy, and hope to bring proposed language to the Senate soon.

**Professional Affairs:** Senator Fulton reported that they are awaiting feedback from Deans' and Graduate Council concerning proposed changes to the language concerning the qualifications to serve as Graduate Faculty.

**Membership:** No report

**Adjournment:** Kim Louie, Chair-Elect made a motion to adjourn and Tim Schmitt seconded the motion. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

**The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3 from 3-5 p.m. in the Program Lounge of the University Center.**