

LIX No. 12
Faculty Senate Minutes
March 5, 2025

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, in the Redhawks Room of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Michael Aide, Michael Bezushko, Abram Book, Christopher Bradley, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp (chair), Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Barbara Lamont, Andy Liu, Hayley 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 and SGA Liaison Sophie Martin were also present. The following alternates were present: Dixie McCollum, Alisha Ortiz, and Belinda McMurry.

Chair Cropp called the meeting to order at 3:00pm

1. Discussion of Mental Health Programs

- **Speakers:** Lydia Pobst (Student Government President) and Trae Mitten (Dean of Students, Title IX coordinator)
- **Details:** Lydia Pobst introduced Trae Mitten and the Oasis program, emphasizing the importance of mental health resources for students. Mr. Mitten provided an overview of the current mental health resources available on campus:
 - **Center for Behavioral Health:** Staffed with licensed mental health counselors offering in-person counseling on a bi-weekly basis. The center has three full-time counselors and a director who also provides counseling part-time.
 - **Campus Training Clinic:** Run by the Masters program in Mental Health Counseling, offering counseling sessions and support groups. Counselors are in training and gaining hours towards full licensure. They can see students more frequently than the Center for Behavioral Health.
 - **Oasis:** A text-based counseling service available 24/7. Students can interact with licensed counselors via text and access self-help modules. The program covers the entire United States, making it accessible to online students and those living out of state.
- **Challenges:** Limited counselor availability and state licensing issues affecting service provision. Missouri and Illinois do not recognize each other's counseling licenses, which restricts services for students commuting from Illinois.

2. Introduction of Paul Sharpe

- **Speaker:** Paul Sharpe
- **Details:** Paul Sharp introduced himself as the new Dean of Kent Library. He shared his background and experience in libraries, mentioning that he has been in the field

for about 25-26 years. Mr. Sharpe expressed his excitement about bringing his experience back to his home state and making changes at Kent Library. He discussed the current staffing challenges and future plans for the library, including filling vacant positions and improving services.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- **Details:** The minutes from February 5, 2025, were reviewed and approved without corrections.

Old Business:

1. **Bill 25-A-3 Three-Year Academic Calendar (Second Reading)** – Motion to approve: Senator Murphy, second: Senator Fluegge

- **Discussion:** The bill was presented for the second time. Key points included the alignment with holidays, breaks, and the academic schedule. Concerns were raised about existing legal contracts and the potential financial impact of changing the dates.
- **Decision:** The bill was approved unanimously with amendments to restore the spring 2026 dates and adjust the summer dates as needed. The amendment was motioned by Senator Murphy Motioned and seconded by Senator Fluegge.
- **Action Items:**
 - **Academic Affairs Committee:** Update the academic calendar to reflect the approved changes.

2. **Bill 25-A-4 University Standing Committees Procedures (Second Reading)** – motion to approve: Senator Newth, second: Senator Murphy

- **Discussion:** The bill outlining procedures for university standing committees presented for the second time. Discussions included the roles, responsibilities, and selection processes for committee members. An amendment to add the word “voluntarily” to line 19 was proposed.
- **Decision:** The bill was approved unanimously.
- **Action Items:**
 - **[committee chair]** adjust the language to include the amended text
 - **[Senate Chair]** submit amended bill to the President for approval

3. **Bill 25-A-5 Restoring Section III.G. of the Grievance Procedures (Second Reading)**- motion to approve: Senator Moore, second: Senator Love

- **Discussion:** The bill to restore Section III.G. of the grievance procedures was presented for the second time. Key points included the importance of this section

for addressing grievances and ensuring fair processes. Updating the flow charts on the portal and double checking all forms would be recommended.

- **Decision:** The bill was approved unanimously.
- **Action Items:**
 - **Documents Committee:** Update the grievance procedures to include the restored Section III.G.
 - **[Senate Chair]** submit amended bill to the President for approval

New Business:

1. **Bill 25-A-6 Class Syllabus Policy (First Reading)** – motion to introduce: Senator Schneider, second: Senator Moore
 - **Discussion:** The proposed class syllabus policy was introduced. Key points included the requirement for electronic syllabi and the consideration of exceptions for certain courses, as well as all forms uploaded will need to be ADA compliant. Friendly amendment to change the word shall to must.
 - **Action Items:**
 - **Academic Affairs Committee:** Review feedback and prepare for the second reading.
2. **Resolution 25-4 Bylaw 6.63**– motion to introduce: Senator Fluegge, seconded: Senator Murphy
 - **Discussion:** Discussions included the rationale for the amendment and its potential impact on faculty governance. All electronic and hard copies must be given to the archivist, as digitizing all records is being looked at being completed. Friendly amendment to strike “in person”.
 - **Action Items:**
 - **Governance Committee:** Review feedback and prepare for the second reading.
3. **Bill 25-A-8 Constitutional Amendment (First Reading)** – motion to introduce: Senator Moore, seconded: Senator Schneider
 - **Discussion:** The proposed constitutional amendment was introduced. Key points included the changes to the election process for faculty senate representatives and the potential impact on faculty governance.
 - **Action Items:**
 - **Documents Committee:** Review feedback and prepare for the second reading.

Reports:

1. Chair – Jenny Cropp

- **Details:** Chair Cropp provided an update on recent activities and initiatives. She highlighted the importance of the upcoming faculty senate elections and encouraged participation. It also discussed the need for a Faculty Senate Foundation account to support various initiatives, including social events and philanthropic endeavors.
- **Action Items:**
 - **Faculty Senate Chair:** Draft guidelines and narrative for the Faculty Senate Foundation account and circulate for feedback.

2. Administrative Liaison – Interim Provost Doug Koch

- **Details:** Dr. Koch provided updates on administrative matters, including budget considerations and upcoming changes in university policies. He also addressed the recent issues with Magill Hall and the steps being taken to resolve them.

3. SGA – Sophie Martin

- **Details:** Ms. Martin reported on recent SGA activities, including student engagement initiatives and upcoming events. She emphasized the importance of student participation in governance and the need for increased voter turnout in the upcoming SGA elections.

Committee Reports:

1. Academic Affairs – Hayley Love

- **Details:** Senator Love provided an update on the committee's work, including the review of the three-year academic calendar and the class syllabus policy. She discussed the need for friendly amendments to the syllabus policy to include exceptions for certain courses.

2. Compensation – Erin Fluegge

- **Details:** Senator Fluegge reported on the committee's discussions regarding faculty compensation, including ongoing negotiations and proposed changes. She highlighted the importance of addressing the compensation for promotions and merit increases.

3. Documents – Michael Bezushko and Larry Bohannon

- **Details:** Senator Bezushko and Senator Bohannon provided an update on the committee's work, including the review of the grievance procedures and the proposed constitutional amendment. They discussed the need for clear guidelines and procedures to ensure fair processes.

4. **Governance - Joshua Newth**

- **Details:** Senator Newth reported on the committee's work, including the review of university standing committees procedures and governance policies. He emphasized the importance of faculty participation in governance and the need for clear and transparent processes.

5. **Professional Affairs – Kelly McEnerney and Michael Aide**

- **Details:** Senator McEnerney and Senator Aide provided an update on the committee's work, including discussions on professional development opportunities and faculty support initiatives. They highlighted the need for clear guidelines and support for faculty going through the promotion and tenure process.

6. **Membership – Joe Murphy**

- **Details:** Senator Murphy reported on the committee's work, including the upcoming faculty senate elections and efforts to increase faculty participation. He emphasized the importance of timely notifications and clear procedures for the elections.

7. **Johnson Faculty Center – Jenna Moore**

- **Details:** Senator Moore provided an update on the Johnson Faculty Center, including recent improvements and ongoing maintenance issues. She discussed the need for additional funding to address facility issues and improve the center's services.

1. **Academic Calendar:**

- **Academic Affairs Committee:** Senator Love

2. **Class Syllabus Policy:**

- **Academic Affairs Committee:** Senator Love

3. **University Standing Committees Procedures:**

- **Governance Committee:** Senator Newth

4. **Grievance Procedures:**

- **Documents Committee:** Senator Bezushko and Senator Bohannon

5. **Emeritus Status:**

- **[Chair Cropp]:** Implement the approved changes regarding emeritus status.

6. **Constitutional Amendment:**

- **Documents Committee:** Senator Bezushko and Senator Bohannon

7. **Faculty Senate Elections:**

- **Membership Committee:** Senator Murphy

8. **Faculty Senate Foundation Account:**

- **Faculty Senate Chair:** Chair Cropp

A unanimous vote was made to go into executive session.

Bill 25-A-7 Emeritus Bill (Executive Session)

- **Discussion:** The bill regarding emeritus status was discussed in executive session.
- **Action Items:**
 - **[Chair Cropp]:** Implement the approved changes regarding emeritus status.

A unanimous vote was made to return from executive session.

Adjournment

- **Details:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm with a reminder of the next meeting date.