

LIV No. 4
Faculty Senate Minutes
September 18, 2019

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 in the Kem Statuary Hall. The following Senators were present: Larry Bohannon, Tamara Buck, Henry Clark, Eric Clements, Beverly Evans, Patricia Farrish, Erin Fluegge, Ruben Gerding, Dena Hale, Joni Hand, Laura Hatcher, Jonathan Hayes, Carl Hess, Roberta Humphrey, Ziping Liu, Kim Louie, David Mauk. Elizabeth McFarland, Celinda McMurry, David Powell, Christina Ragain, Desma Reno, Kristen Sobba, Nicolas Wilkins, and Diane Wood. Provost Godard was present, along with Robert Phillippe and Reagen Tibbs from Student Government. Susan Fulton was not present nor had an alternate present.

Chair Kevin Dickson and Dr. Time Schmidt were both present as guests.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from September 4, 2019 (53.3) were approved.

New Business

Chair Dickson and Dr. Schmidt discussed with the Senate the importance of being a Senator and what it entails. They talked about the diligence it takes being a legislative committee chair; and how when the committees are creating bills, relating to the Faculty Handbook, how important the language being used is.

Reports

Chair Wilkins reported that Provost Godard is still working hard on getting the pending Faculty Senate bills review and pushed through the approval process. The Chair also stated that he was able to meet with the Deans Council Wednesday morning and the student evaluations were briefly discussed. The Deans are still wanting to be able to have access to all the student evaluations from each course taught.

Provost Godard reported that in regard to the student evaluations, there is a Senate Bill 389 that was originally signed in 2007 and certain aspects of the bill were supposed to in place and active by 2008-2009. One aspect was related to faculty evaluations, the bill was specific in what was required by state statute. The bill was given to the Department of Higher Education of Missouri to administer the legislation. In Section 173.1004 of the Senate Bill 389 it states that an institution is to post on their website all faculty along with weblinks providing information about their academic credentials and where feasible instructors ratings by students. He stated that they are clear in stating that the ratings must include the most recent rating available or a faculty member's rating for multiple academic terms whether data from each term are presented separately or aggregate form so long as the ratings include the most recent data available, according to the legislation because it is the law. Where it's mentioned about posting credentials of faculty, that has to be on the public facing of the institution's website so all citizens of Missouri can access to it. When it refers to the evaluations of faculty, ratings must be posted on a portion of the institution's website where current students can have access to it. The Missouri Department of Higher Education periodically, and as recently as about two years ago, checks

each institution's website to see what they can find that is required by Senate Bill 389. Out of 27 institutions, as of 2007, twenty of them have instructor evaluations posted on their website that either on the public format or are able to be accessed through a portal system. The penalty for noncompliance is the loss of state funding.

The Senate discussed their thoughts on the bill. It was stated that from 2009-2011 there were three questions, for each course taught, that were published in the portal, but it has disappeared since then. There were also legal concerns discussed about posting this information on the institution's website.

Chair-Elect Wood reported that the Johnson Faculty Centre (JFC) Committee is still working on giving the JFC a facelift. She had a walk-through of the building with Kathy Mangels and Angela Meyers. At minimum the committee would like to have the carpet ripped up and have the wood floors, underneath, redone. They would like to have a student competition with the Interior Design students. The committee would be a part of choosing the top three proposals, and from there take the top three choices to the Johnson family and have them pick their favorite. She also mentioned the positive points and the easy accessibility to campus by renting out the JFC suites to visiting guests rather than having them rent a hotel room.

Mr. Phillippe and Mr. Tibbs reported that the student government has had two meetings so far this year. They were asked for their opinion on alcohol being sold at sporting events, which they were all in favor of. They also discussed the medicinal use of marijuana on campus.

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Senator Evans reported that the committee met the previous week and took a look at what their current charges are and where they plan to start.

Compensation – Senator Reno reported that she was in touch with the committee though email and will meet next week. They will start to look at the budget, and some of the committee members were a part of the meetings for insurance.

Documents – Senator Bohannon reported that the committee met last week. They looked at what was accomplished the previous session and will later be working to check on updates for the sections of the Faculty Handbook.

Governance – Senator Hess reported that the committee wasn't able to meet but they are keeping in touch through email about their current charges.

Professional Affairs – Senator Hatcher reported that they met last week. They continue to work on outstanding issues and are also working on language for the pending student evaluation bills.

Membership – Senator Hand reported that there was an oversight with a faculty member serving on two committees, but they were able to correct it.

Adjournment

Senator Hess moved to adjourn; Senator Humphrey seconded. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:45p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 in the Kem Statuary Hall from 3-5 p.m.