

**LIX No. 2**  
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**May 1, 2024**

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, in the Redhawks Room of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Michael Bezushko, Larry Bohannon, Abram Book, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp (Chair), Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Pam Gershuny, Barbara Lamont, Andy Liu, Haley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Jenna Moore (Chair-Elect), Joe Murphy, Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Kyle Schneider, Sophia Scott, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, and David Yaskewich. Provost Mike Godard and SGA representative Jonah McGuire were present. The following alternates were present: Shay Cecil. The following proxies were present: Samantha Siemers. Peter Oman and Robin Smith were not present or represented by alternates.

Chair Cropp called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meetings on April 24, 2024. Senator Taylor made the motion to approve the minutes from Session 58; seconded by Senator Bohannon. Senator Scott made the motion to approve the minutes from Session 59; seconded by Senator Taylor. Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted on the webpage.

Up next, Chair Cropp asked for a motion to approve the legislative committee chairs. Senator Scott made the motion; seconded by Senator Love. Chair-Elect Moore requested that the motion, with a friendly amendment, to include the co-chairs and vice-chairs. A vote was called, and the motion was unanimously approved. Chair Cropp then asked for a motion to approve the reporting committees. Senator Scott made the motion; seconded by Senator Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Chair's Report:**

Budget Review Committee met yesterday—April 30<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Shields and Sue Wilde. Below are highlights from the meeting.

- The Missouri House has approved and sent to the Missouri Senate a proposal for 2 percent appropriations for higher education. The Missouri Senate increased the state appropriations for higher education to 2 percent. Since the two chambers are not in agreement, it goes in committee. We are moving forward with budget plans for 2 percent state appropriations.
- We were looking at a \$4M budget deficit for FY25 with the deficit continuing to grow over FY26 and FY27. Dr. Vargas plans to submit a balanced FY25 budget to the Board of Governors at the June 2024 meeting. Interim VP for Finance and Administration, Dr. Gerald Shields, and his team have been working hard to find ways to reduce the deficit and balance FY25 budget. Over \$3M has been identified. This results in the budget being in deficit by a little over \$1M. Dr. Shields and team are still working to identify the \$1M from a list of possible options.
- Proposed action to balance the FY25 budget includes:
  - Additional revenue due to University initiatives
  - Removal of supplemental contingencies
  - Additional support provided by the Foundation
  - A 5 percent tuition increase, instead of a 3 percent increase as previously recommended
  - No increases to general and program fees
  - Salary increase of 2 percent instead of the 2.5 percent that was in the budget and the 4 percent requested by the three employee groups

- Broader strategic initiatives will be necessary to improve financial position in subsequent years. Please note that the following list are only considerations. Such initiatives that are up for consideration include
  - Profitability analysis of colleges and departments
  - Off lining Regional Campus locations
  - Differential tuition program
  - Right-size faculty load to enrollment
  - Evaluate and increase offerings of online programs
  - Scholarship optimization
  - Restructuring of professional programs
  - Restructuring of Graduate Assistant Programs
  - Implementation of student-athlete on campus housing mandate
  - Analysis of textbook rental service model
  - Analysis of postage service model
  - View of Greek Housing investments
  - Perform equity study
  - Review of organizational structure alignment with University services
  - Student worker hourly wage increase
  - Usage of one-time funds to payoff debt
  - Evaluation of real estate holdings
  - Re-investment in University initiatives

There could also be a 5% increase in fringe benefits.

Chair Cropp will give her first report to the Board of Governors on May 17<sup>th</sup>. She, Chair-Elect Moore, and Senator Murphy will attend the enrollment transformation task force update meeting. The FM appreciation picnic was a success.

#### **Provost's Report:**

This was Dr. Godard's last meeting with the senate. He will be leaving to become the next president at Indiana State University.

#### **SGA Report:**

The annual SGA banquet was held, and Senator Fluegge was presented with the Dr. R. Ferrell Ervin Excellence in Teaching Award. Funding was also awarded.

**Membership:** Filled the reporting committees. At large vacancies will be filled in the fall. SGA representation will be needed for the fall semester.

#### **Announcements:**

**Moore:** Yeast Nation, May 3-4, 7:30 pm, Rust Flexible Theatre, May 5 at 2 pm. Celebrate the Arts, May 3, 7:30 pm, Bedell Performance Hall

**Cropp:** Take Away Friday – Alumni Tracking, hosted by Faculty Senate on Friday, May 3 from 12-1 pm, Whitaker Classroom, EDvolution Center

Blood Drive – Wednesday, May 8, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in UC Ballroom A,

hosted by Clerical, Technical & Service Staff Council and the Professional Staff Council

**McGuire:** Late night breakfast, Monday, May 6, 9-11 pm

**Adjournment:** Chair Cropp called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Taylor made the motion; seconded by Senator Murphy. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28 from 3-5 pm in the Redhawks Room of the University Center.**