

LVIII No. 4
Faculty Senate Minutes
September 13, 2023

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, in Ballroom A of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Michael Aide, Larry Bohannon, Christopher Bradley, Shannon Clapsaddle, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp (Chair-Elect), Erin Fluegge (Chair), Pam Gershuny, Stephanie Hallam, Christopher Baldwin, Monica Kearney, Andy Liu, Kim Louie, Haley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Joe Murphy, Josh Newth, Peter Oman, Tim Schmidt, Sophia Scott, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, and David Yaskewich. Provost Mike Godard and SGA representative David Oliver were also present. The following alternates were present: Chris Haug and Shay Cecil.

Chair Fluegge called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting on August 30, 2023. Senator Clapsaddle made the motion which was seconded by Senator Scott. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted on the webpage.

Up next, Chair Fluegge thanked the deans, chairs, and Dr. Vargas for attending the meeting and Chris Martin for assisting with the guest Zoom presentation. Dr. Vargas discussed meeting with the executive committee over the summer and talking about working with Hayley Hanson who is a partner in the Husch Blackwell law firm, to create a policy library registry. Hanson introduced herself and provided her background to the senate. She has reviewed the faculty handbook and her presentation consisted of recommendations and best practices. One opportunity for improvement that Hanson spoke on is that the handbook lacks differentiation between the faculty handbook policy and the university policy. She will be forwarding some materials and examples of policy registries at other schools.

Dr. Vargas believes that it is a good joint effort that will result in a better document and is looking forward to the conversations.

Chair Fluegge asked for feedback on the presentation and the creation of the policy registry. Some senators expressed concern over the loss of information—information that is extracted from the handbook and cannot be found in other areas. Also, concerns about funding the project and about Hanson rewriting the grievance policy. The goal, as Senator Gershuny, mentioned, is to have a searchable online repository. The policy registry will contain all university policies, not just the policies contained in the faculty handbook. Please contact Chair Fluegge with additional questions or concerns.

Chair's Report:

Chair Fluegge shared several items during her report. Faculty social hour will have a change of venue. It will be held on September 29th from 5 to 7 p.m., but will be held at Ebb & Flow, located at 11 S. Spanish St. Appetizers will be provided but there will be a cash bar. Faculty senate will be partnering with the American Red Cross again for a blood drive. The blood drive will be held on October 16th and 17th from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center. A flyer will be emailed. Also, if students volunteer for three hours at the Shipyard Musical Festival on September 22nd and 23rd, they will receive free tickets. At the next meeting on September 27th, Shelby Bentley from the American Red Cross, will be discussing the blood drive and Dr. Below will be discussing the twenty-day census numbers. Instead of waiting until April for the different employee groups to meet and share points of view, Dayna Northington, chair of CTS and Amy

Hancock, chair of PSC will be guests at the November 29th meeting and Chair Fluegge will attend the PSC meeting on October 25th and with CTS on December 13th. Chair Fluegge said she was looking forward to the notion of shared governance. Chair Fluegge gave special thanks to Senators Gershuny, Love, McEnerney, Yaskewich, Bohannon, Moore, and Chair-elect Cropp for volunteering to attend SGA meetings. There are five more meetings that are available, and the sign-up sheet was passed around. In addition, budget review will be meeting on September 25th. Chair Fluegge has partnered with the Cape Chamber of Commerce on the Women in Business luncheon (At the Heart of It All) on September 22nd from 10:30 to 2 p.m. at the Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center. There are twenty-five slots for students to attend, and please send Chair Fluegge the names of students who want to attend so that she can submit them. Chair Fluegge also announced the death of former Senator Hand's husband. Sadly, she announced that two Southeast students have committed suicide this year. She will be reporting to the BOG at their September 22nd meeting. The last item that Chair Fluegge discussed was the closing of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. She asked about the closure at the Administrative Council meeting yesterday, and Nora Bouzihay said the resources will not be going away, that the work and activities will be moved to the Office of Equity Initiatives. She also asked Bouzihay if the information about LGBTQ+ resources could be communicated to the university.

Provost's Report:

Since time had been reserved for Haley Hanson, the provost did not report to the senate. Senator Schmidt asked the provost to share with the administration his concern that the university is not communicating well with faculty, staff, and students, particularly regarding the closure of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and the availability of resources. The lack of transparency is disturbing. The decision was not announced, and no tangible discussions were held among the constituents.

SGA Report:

The SGA met on September 11th and Dr. Vargas was the guest speaker. He discussed the direction of the university. John Voss will be attending the September 25th meeting. The PRIDE president will meet with Nora Bouzihay tomorrow and discuss the closing of the LGBTQ+ resource center. Chair Fluegge asked David if he could forward any shareable information from the meeting with Bouzihay.

Academic Affairs:

Compensation:

Documents:

Governance:

Professional:

*All committees met via email or Teams

Membership: Working on filling slots on the commencement committee. Interested faculty should contact their faculty senator or Senator Hallam. The call also went out for membership on the HLC committee. If interested, please contact Senator Hallam.

Announcements:

Fluegge: Faculty social hour on September 29th 5 to 7 p.m. at Ebb & Flow, located at 11 S. Spanish St.

Kearney: Build a Better You Program begins September 18th. A flyer will be emailed with additional information

Aide: Suggested some upgrades for the web page—new photo

Adjournment: Chair Fluegge called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Senator Taylor and seconded by Senator Schmidt. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27 from 3-5 in the Program Lounge of the University Center.