

FACULTY SENATE

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE BILL 16-A-1

Approved by the Faculty Senate
January 27, 2016

BRIEF SUMMARY: This bill specifies the policy portion of the existing *Faculty Handbook* section on *The Role of the Faculty Senate in University Governance* (Chapter 1, Section G4).

REVISING “THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY SENATE IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE” TO ESTABLISH A POLICY SECTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: subject to the passage and approval of this bill Chapter 1, Section G4 of the *Faculty Handbook* be amended by replacing the existing content with the following “policies” section:

1

2 *Faculty Senate Bill 16-A-1 begins here.*

3 **Faculty Senate**

4 The Faculty Senate was organized in 1966 and recognized by the Board of Regents as the official
5 representative body of the faculty. Approval by the Board of Regents on March 25, 1976, of
6 Senate Bill 76-A-01, "Recommendations on Academic Reorganization," and particularly Part I,
7 "University Governance," reaffirmed the role of the Faculty Senate as the established
8 representative body through which the faculty could make "formal recommendations for new
9 academic policy and changes in existing policy." The Board of Regents' action in 1976 formally
10 provided assurance of faculty input into academic policy developed by means of the Faculty
11 Senate.

12 President Stacy and the Board of Regents, in a letter to the Faculty Senate dated January 29,
13 1982, reaffirmed their commitment to receive the expression of faculty opinion through the
14 Faculty Senate. Senate members were asked to utilize their professional competence and best
15 judgment to review, develop, and make recommendations to the President and the Board of
16 Regents on all matters of concern to the University community.

17 **Faculty Senate Organization**

18 Senate membership consists of departmental unit representatives elected for three-year terms
19 with one third of the membership elected each year. Officers of the Senate are elected annually

20 from the Senate membership. The purposes, duties, functions and responsibilities of Faculty
21 Senate are found in the Faculty Senate Constitution.

22 **The Role of the Faculty Senate in Academic Affairs**

23 Under a collegial form of governance, all segments of the University community are involved in
24 reviewing and making recommendations for changes in existing policies and procedures. The
25 University vests in its faculty, acting through its representative body, the Faculty Senate, the
26 authority to make formal recommendations for new University academic policy and procedure as
27 well as changes in existing policy and procedures. The Faculty Senate reviews proposals and
28 develops recommendations for changes in academic policy and procedure through its committee
29 system. The function of Faculty Senate committees is to recommend policy and procedures in
30 academic affairs and in all other matters involving the faculty.

31 Academic policy is understood to consist of those statements on academic matters that are
32 formally adopted and promulgated by the University. Thus, a “change in academic policy” is
33 understood to refer to an alteration or addition which would necessitate changes in academic
34 procedures throughout the University. Academic procedure is understood to be the
35 implementation of the corresponding policy. Policies for which the Faculty Senate deems
36 procedures are required should not be implemented until the procedures are fully developed.

37 **Outline of Committee Structure**

38 A Faculty Senate Committee is a committee which is charged by the Faculty Senate and which
39 must report to the Faculty Senate through its Chair. Information regarding Faculty Senate
40 Committees may be found in Section 7 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws.

41 A University Standing Committee is a committee which is charged by the President of the
42 University and which must report to the President of the University and/or an individual
43 designated by the President of the University.

44 *Approved by Faculty Senate January 27, 2016, Reviewed by President August 9, 2016, Approved*
45 *by Board of Regents September 9, 2016.*

Action	Date
Introduced to Senate	12/2/2016
Second Senate Meeting	1/27/2016
Faculty Senate Vote	1/27/2016
President's Review	8/9/16
Board of Regents Approval	9/9/16
Posted to Faculty Handbook	