

LII No. 12
Faculty Senate Minutes
February 21, 2018

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 in the UC Missouriiana/Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Rick Althaus, Jennifer Bengtson, Shamik Bhattachary, Larry Bohannon, Eric Clements, Kevin Dickson, Joni Hand, Jonathan Hayes, Avery Henry, Carl Hess, Roberta Humphrey, Don Jung, Carl Kinnison, Ziping Liu, Jim McGill, Kathie Miller, David Powell, Willie Redmond, Tim Schmidt, Julie Tipton, Jingjing Tong, Janice Ward, Nicolas Wilkins, and Diane Wood. Provost Kunkel and Peyton Mogley, Student Government President, were also present. Michael Aide, Cassandra Loggins, and Adolfo Ramos were present as alternates. Henry Clark was not present and had no alternate present.

Approval of Minutes

The Faculty Senate minutes for February 7, 201 (52.11) were approved.

Old Business

Senator Schmidt moved to approve *Bill 18-A-XX – Student Evaluation Policy* and *Bill 18-A-XX – Student Evaluation Procedures*. Senator Jung seconded. Senators brought forward concerns their departments had with the bills. After discussing the bills at length, the Senate decided to withdraw the bills for approval until amendments were made, and councils were addressed about said concerns and new amendments being made.

Reports

Chair McGill reported that he has been receiving high praises about the presentation the Governance Committee did for “Take Away Fridays” on February 1. He stated that this is a perfect example and opportunity of how the Senate can help to improve faculty, students, and the University. Senator Hand stated that they were pleased with the turnout and how engaged and interested the faculty were. Senator Wood stated that she has received requests from faculty to do more presentations and have even given her topics they could discuss.

The Chair also reported that he will be attending the Board of Regents meeting on Friday, February 23, 2018. At the beginning of the Faculty Senate session, he sat down with the Board of Regents and told them that the Faculty Senate is a body that wants to work with them and make positive improvements. He stated that when he gives his report this Friday, he wants to discuss what ways the Senate can help with improving the University; and discuss improving how the Administrative Council works with the Senate.

Lastly, Chair McGill stated that with the restructuring of the University’s departments, there will be some departments that won’t exist and some that will double up. The restructuring will change how Senators are elected in the spring, thus he asked the Membership Committee to draft a recommendation regarding Senator elections in the Spring.

Provost Kunkel reported the Governor proposed an additional 10% base budget reduction to higher education for Fiscal Year 2019, which is in addition to the approximate 6.5% base cut the

University received in the current fiscal year. Kunkel stated the legislative process still needs to unfold this Spring before we will know if the Governor's recommendation is upheld and there is some vocal support for higher education in the Legislature. However, the Budget Review Committee is using the Governor's recommendation as the starting place for planning, just to be safe. There are Faculty Senators on the Budget Review Committee and the Provost encouraged these members to keep the Faculty Senate informed.

The Provost also stated he attended the recent academic affairs meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The theme was "Public Universities in Challenging Times." He reminded the Senators that their work as faculty is very important because we are in the business of transforming lives and providing opportunities for students who otherwise would not have accessibility to higher education. The Provost also reported that AASCU is reviving the American Democracy Project (ADP) because state colleges and universities are an ideal location to develop the democracy we want. Southeast is one of the founding universities in ADP. The Provost reported on two presentations from the conference, one examining disproportionate DFW rates in gateway courses for under-represented groups claiming that addressing these DFW rates are a social justice issue, and the other demonstrating how information literacy is a crucial building block for an informed citizenry and democratic participation, asking how we can better incorporate information literacy into our curriculum.

Peyton Mogley reported that the Student Government is collecting knowledge from different divisions across the institution to see how students can assess their own fees this semester. She stated that in a few weeks they will have a formal resolution to present to budget review on what they decide to do with the fees that students are paying.

Ms. Mogley also reported that they had a resolution presented opposing Governor Greitens and his administration's cuts to higher education. The resolution did fail but it's not off the table. She stated that they also had a proposal fail. Senators proposed a recommendation encouraging the Board of Regents to relook at their nondiscrimination statement, because as an institution, we have certain bodies of people that might not all be protected.

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Senator Schmidt reported that the committee worked on the bills that were presented at today's meeting and they also are working on a draft for the new 5 Year Calendar 2018-2023.

Compensation – Senator Miller reported that the committee met last week and they worked on a proposal to send to budget review. She stated that the committee should have the proposal ready to present at the next Senate meeting.

Documents – Senator Humphrey reported that the committee met last Wednesday and they addressed two questions that Chair McGill put forward to them. They also looked at the HERI survey to see if there were any suggestions they could make to improve faculty satisfaction.

Governance – Senator Wood reported that the committee met the previous week. They have been working on their next presentation for Take Away Fridays, which will be on March 23. She stated that the committee also discussed concerns with RNTT faculty not having a voice and they will look into the matter further.

Professional Affairs – Senator Althaus reported that the committee met last week with Chair McGill. They discussed issues in regard to campus practices for earning emeritus status. He stated that the committee was previously asked to look into the differences between our University and other universities’ emeritus policy; and to consider raising the bar when it comes to earning emeritus status.

Membership – Senator Redmond had no report.

Adjournment

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the UC Missouriiana/Redhawks Room.