

**LII No. 8**  
**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**  
**November 15, 2017**

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 in the UC Program Lounge. The following Senators were present: Rick Althaus, Larry Bohannon, Shelba Branscum, Henry Clark, Eric Clements, Gary Cwick, Kevin Dickson, Joni Hand, Carl Hess, Tom Holman, Roberta Humphrey, Carl Kinnison, Ziping Liu, Jim McGill, Kathie Miller, David Powell, Willie Redmond, Desma Reno, Tim Schmidt, Julie Tipton, Jingjing Tong, and Bart Williams. Provost Kunkel was also present. Tamara Buck, Gabriele Eckart, and Travis Smith were present as alternates. Senators not present or represented by an alternate were: Jonathan Hayes, David Mauk, Nicolas Wilkins, and Diane Wood.

Peyton Mogley, Student Government President, and Dylan Kennedy, Student Government Vice President, attended as guests.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for November 1, 2017 (52.7) were approved.

**Guests**

Peyton Mogley and Dylan Kennedy came to Senate as a follow up from first time they visited the Senate in September. Ms. Mogley stated that the Student Government is in full support of the Faculty Senate; and that they are thankful for Chair McGill being the liaison and relaying information to them. She informed the Senate that there are students who are concerned about faculty wellness and health; and wanted to reiterate that the hard work of the faculty is being noticed and is appreciated.

**Old Business**

Senator Schmidt presented the final version of the new Student Evaluation of Instruction instrument and gave a handout that has clarification and answers to concerns about the instrument. He stated that this instrument is not required for all courses this semester but is required for all UI100 sections; but faculty may elect to use it. Senator Schmidt is drafting a document to be read before the evaluation is given. He also stated that the open evaluation window for full semester classes and 8-week classes is set for the last two weeks of regular classes; for 4 & 6 week courses the window is set for the final week. The results from smarteval will be available to faculty online, the day after final grades are due.

Senator Schmidt discussed a concern he received that deals with how the results from the evaluations will be tallied and used. He stated that the new instrument uses a Likert Scale of 1-5 similar to the IDEA instrument.

Lastly, Senator Schmidt discussed the concern of the gradebook blocking feature. Senators expressed how their departments felt about this feature. After an in-depth discussion about the concerns, pros, and cons of suspending access to the gradebook from students until they complete the evaluation, the Senate took a vote on the following:

Do we utilize the gradebook blocking feature for any course this fall?

The full Senate voted no.

For spring 2018 semester, do we use the gradebook blocking feature for online only courses?

The Senate voted: 8-yes, 15-opposed, and 1-abstention

For spring 2018 semester, do we use the gradebook blocking feature for all other courses?

The full Senate voted no.

Senator Schmidt stressed to the Senators that since the gradebook blocking feature will not be used, they will need to work with their departments to figure out a way to increase the response rate for these evaluations, especially evaluations for online courses.

## **Reports**

Chair McGill encouraged the Senate to make sure they go back to their departments and inform them about the topics discussed in Senate. He asked the Faculty Senate parliamentarian, Senator Althaus, to discuss what the procedures are for having a record on how each Senator votes on certain matters.

Senator Althaus stated that the mechanism on how the Senate votes is in the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws. In it states that the three main ways are by voice vote, by show of hands, and/or by roll call; and if a Senate member asks for a roll call then it shall be taken, and the results will be recorded in the minutes; with that, it would be the Chair's discretion recognize or hear a request for a roll call.

Lastly, Chair McGill reiterated that he wants feedback from the faculty about how Senate is going, how life as a faculty member is going, and anything else they'd like to share. He stated that this is something he is committed to; valuing faculty, faculty retention, faculty success is very important and will continue to work on this.

Provost Kunkel announced Faculty Development Day will be on January 11, 2018, and Jeff Selingo will be the keynote speaker. Selingo is former editor for The Chronicle for Higher Education, a higher education columnist for the Washington Post, and author of a best-selling book, There is Life After College. He also announced the PRIDE award recipient will be recognized at this event.

The Provost stated the university committee recently provided him with recommendations for the extraordinary program review process for low-completer programs and he currently is in the vetting process. Results and reports will be available soon.

Lastly, Provost Kunkel reminded the Faculty Senate that a newly developed reorganization model recently was released. This model is based on feedback received from the scenarios presented on the forum on October 25. The Provost invited comments on the latest model through the established email address and reiterated a final proposal needs to be submitted to the major academic restructuring process during the first week of the Spring 2018 Semester.

## **Legislative Committee Reports**

**Academic Affairs** – Senator Schmidt reported that the committee has been working on the Student Evaluation of Instruction instrument and they also drafted a possible revision of the policy and procedures of the Student Evaluation of Instruction section in the Faculty Handbook and have forwarded it the Professional Affairs Committee for feedback.

**Compensation** – Senator Miller had no report.

**Documents** – Senator Humphrey reported that the committee has been working with the Senate's admin and created a new link on the Faculty Senate webpage, "Faculty Senate Meeting Materials." Within this link faculty can find the agenda and documents for the next and previous Senate meetings. She stated that this will help keep the faculty more informed on what the Senate has and will be discussing.

**Governance** – Senator Hand reported the committee is working on Take-Away Friday presentations for the spring semester. Right now, they have four planned and the topics are: Models of Governance, which will be a panel discussion; The Role of the Department and Department Chair; Civility; and Operational Philosophy, which will also be a panel discussion.

**Professional Affairs** - Senator Althaus reported that the committee had met the previous week and continued its discussion regarding the section of the handbook that deals with termination of a faculty member for cause. Committee members are attempting to determine the types of circumstances that might justify a termination, and the procedures that might be used to prior to a potential termination case going before the Board of Regents. The Provost will be attending the Committee meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> for a discussion of this and other matters.

**Membership** – Senator Redmond had no report.

## **Adjournment**

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

**The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the UC Missouriiana/Redhawks Room.**