

LII No. 7
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
November 1, 2017

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 in the UC Missouriiana/Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Rick Althaus, Jennifer Bengtson, Larry Bohannon, Shelba Branscum, Henry Clark, Eric Clements, Gary Cwick, Kevin Dickson, Joni Hand, Avery Henry, Carl Hess, Tom Holman, Roberta Humphrey, Don Jung, Carl Kinnison, Ziping Liu, Jim McGill, Kathie Miller, David Powell, Willie Redmond, Tim Schmidt, Julie Tipton, Jingjing Tong, Janice Ward, and Diane Wood. The following alternate were present: Michael Aide, Cassandra Loggins, and Missy Nieveen-Phegley. Provost Kunkel and Madison Smith, Student Government Liaison, were also present. Senator not present or represented by an alternate were: Nicolas Wilkins and Bart Williams.

Dr. Christina Ragain, Chair of the Grants and Research Funding Committee; and Mrs. Pam Vargas, Director of Research and Grant Development, were present as guests.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October 18, 2017 (52.6) were approved.

Guests

Dr. Ragain and Mrs. Vargas came to Senate to discuss some issues with the current GRFC guidelines; and to propose and request approval to revise the guidelines. They also discussed an accounting issue and asked for input on how it could be resolved.

New Business

Senator Schmidt brought forward a revised copy of the instrument for student evaluation of instruction. He stated that with the feedback from Faculty Senate, Student Government, Dean's Council, and a survey that was sent out to faculty, the Academic Affairs Committee made some minor changes. He discussed the changes made and informed the Senate that this will be conducted online only, through Moodle.

Reports

Provost Kunkel reported Kent Library will be leaving the MOBIUS library management system and operate with a free-standing LMS. However, the Library will remain a MOBIUS member for resource sharing and purchasing. The changeover will be implemented by July 1, 2018.

The Provost also discussed academic restructuring. Three scenarios were presented and discussed at the forum last week. The Provost currently is considering all received feedback. Restructuring proposals must be submitted during the first week of the Spring Semester in order to implement by the beginning of next fiscal year.

Provost Kunkel reported consideration of creating a policy register for the University to centrally locate all official policies. Details will be presented and discussed during the coming year.

Student Government Liaison

Madison reported that the Student Government has been discussing the academic restructuring. They are considering a restructure of their Senate to match changes that will be made to the University. She also mentioned that Carpe Diem October 24 at 7 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center-North. They are also doing a Diversity Initiative this semester called “Unboxed.”

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Senator Schmidt reported that the committee met the previous week and they worked on the evaluation instrument that was presented today.

Compensation – Senator Miller reported that the committee had met the week before with the Provost, and they discussed workload, both graduate and graduate; overload compensation; finding a way to uncouple merit raises and increases from state budget issues.

Documents – No report

Governance – Senator Hand reported that the committee’s four subcommittees are busy planning presentations for Take-Away Fridays.

Professional Affairs – Senator Althaus reported that the committee met with Cheryl McAllister, Chair of the University Tenure and Promotion and Sabbatical Leave Advisory Committee, to discuss the internal procedures of the Committee and to try to resolve any uncertainties about the meaning of the term “record of service.” During discussion, the Professional Affairs members and Dr. McAllister concluded that the language in the Faculty Handbook was sufficiently clear. The document referred to as “record of service” is meant to be a listing of what the applicant has done during the time period under review, organized in the same format as the department’s criteria, to facilitate a side-by-side comparison by the evaluators. Professional Affairs has no plans to recommend revisions to the relevant Handbook language. Senator Althaus also reported that the Committee is continuing to work on the section of the handbook that deals with termination of a faculty member for cause, and will be meeting with the Provost after Thanksgiving to discuss that section with him.

Membership – Senator Redmond reported that the committee is trying to find a replacement for Senator Branscum who will be retiring after December of this year.

Adjournment

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the UC Program Lounge.