

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Report of the Faculty Liaison to the Board of Governors

David L Sharlow, Faculty Senate President 2015-16

November 20, 2015

At the second meeting of the Faculty Senate on Monday, November 2, 2015 our primary concern was approving over 100 curricular changes/additions/deletions that were submitted by the School Curriculum Oversight Committees (SCOC's) and the Academic Policies Committee (APC). All were approved but one, with that one being corrected and returned to us for approval at our next meeting. Although there is still much to iron out regarding this process, it is my feeling the new procedure was successful in terms of the hierarchical protocol that was established in the Faculty Handbook **FHB**. We continue to feel our way through this process and with the help of the Committee on Committees and the Faculty Handbook Committee, who are reviewing submitted suggestions for smoothing out the process for example, the FHB will become even more user-friendly.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee **FSEC** (President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Member At-Large) had its first meeting with the President's Council **PC** on Wednesday, October 28. In addition to the FSEC, Dr. Carson, Darren Fullerton, and Rob Yust were present. Dr. Marble was ill and could not attend. FSEC and PC will be meeting once a month on the Wednesday prior to our Faculty Senate meetings in preparation for our FS meetings and to help keep the lines of communication open between the Faculty and the Administration. Here is a synopsis of that meeting in regards to the some of the important information discussed:

- **ITS Friday** – Based on the *TED TALKS* model, this 1-2 times a semester gathering is intended to bring the University Community together for a time of socialization and inspiration. The first was this past Friday, November 13 and from all accounts, was a success given the number of faculty and staff who attended. **Dr. David McKee** presented an interesting lecture, that was both humorous and heartening about a project in regards to building a particle detector, that he and students worked and consequently presented at the American Physical Society meeting in Baltimore, MD. Before the lecture, both faculty and staff enjoyed cheese, wine, and fruit kabobs, which allowed for much talking, laughter, and good will.
- **UE 100** – This is being reviewed by Darren Fullerton and UE Committee Members in regards to:
 - Current course syllabus and objectives
 - Course content and the possible alternatives
 - Potential Length of the course
 - Who teaches the course as to full-time faculty or adjuncts and the differences between the two groups in terms of IDEA evaluations.
- **ALICE Training** – **A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter, and **E**vacuate: This training is being conducted at least once a semester with the possibility of being offered to departments upon request. This next one is November 17 at 2:30pm in the Phelps Theater.
- **Non-Smoking Policy Implementation** – Student Affairs is working with Human Resources and with the University of Missouri's Partners in Prevention to implement the No-Tobacco policy.
 - Signs, door clings, and promotional materials are being developed for use in the Spring 2016 Semester. Attempting to use our logo.
 - The Willcoxon Health Center and the MSSU Wellness Program are purchasing tobacco cessation items for potential distribution.
 - The MSSU Wellness Program will be offering Smoking Cessation workshops for the Spring 2016 Semester.
 - The Student Senate purchased new trashcans without cigarette trays that will be here by November 5th.
- **Survey Software** – Dr. Carson and the Office of Academic Affairs is investigating the possibility of a university package survey program – such as *Survey Monkey* – that could be used by the faculty and would be centralized through the Office of Academic Affairs. This is still a work in progress at this moment, however the idea is that departments would possibly be able to purchase their individual accounts for \$300 to be able to connect with alumni, survey employers of our graduates, and follow up with community organizations or businesses that sponsor internships for our students, in addition to using it for professional research.
- **Phased Retirement** – A charge was given to the Faculty Welfare Committee after our last meeting at the request of Dr. Marble. The FWC has met and has posed questions to the Administration. Their questions, along with those raised by the Staff Senate, have been compiled and are being looked at as we speak. I have been told this is definitely coming, but in the

words of Dr. Marble, “we want to get it right”, which means the necessary time will be taken to make sure every consideration is being analyzed. Some issues really have to do with how it works with MOSERS and to this end, the administration is working for clarification from them.

- **GGOE – Great Game of Education:** This is moving forward. Scott Cragin has sent members of the FSEC and email regarding workshop dates in December and January. However, there is a workshop being held on Tuesday, November 24 with offerings for both the morning and afternoon. In summation... you will be able to see by line item how your department is doing in regards to generated credit hours and revenue and compare that to the previous year’s information. The hold up has been in getting all of the information necessary to make the spreadsheet, but according to Rob Yust, this is forthcoming and the rollout will be soon.
- **Tenure and Promotion Standards/Timelines AND Faculty Evaluations–** In short, information is being gathered from the departments as to the standards that are unique to each specifically regarding the evaluative area of creativity. According to Dr. Carson, this, like the Phased Retirement, is not something we want to rush given the delicacy of how this will affect the current faculty. In Dr. Carson’s words... “We don’t want to rush the criteria”... So time is being taken to ensure these standards conform to those policies found in the FHB. Also being considered is how this falls in line with the HLC.
- **Summer Courses –** Information has been gathered and compiled with a formula as to what constitutes class size AND how faculty will be paid.

In other news...

Faculty and students are gearing up for the end of the fall semester, which will of course be the week after Thanksgiving; with finals being the week following. Students are also planning and enrolling in courses for the winter semester. The fall semester has moved very quickly, but from all accounts, it has been a good semester. I know in my own department both faculty and students are preparing for holiday-related concerts on and off campus with an emphasis on reaching out to the Joplin community and with that, the end of the semester promises to be busy, but full of energy and excitement.

Respectfully submitted,
David L. Sharlow, PhD
2015-2016 Faculty Senate President