

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Report of the Faculty Liaison to the Board of Governors

Bradley A. Creamer, Faculty Senate President 2016-17

September 16, 2016

The Faculty Senate met on August 29, 2016 for the first session of the 2016-2017 Academic year. The following is a summary of the issues discussed and votes taken at that meeting:

Old Business included an update on the new Curriculum Routing Documents. Megan Bever, former Faculty Senate Secretary announced that CRD's are now electronic. Along with other staff members, they scheduled a training session for administrative assistants, along with an additional session for Deans and Department chairs on how to use the new forms. These forms went live on September 12, 2016. The Senate thanks all involved in implementing these new documents, and they should cut down on time and paperwork needed to make changes to our academic offerings.

New Business included the seating of new senators taking the place of faculty who stepped down from senate over the summer, or retired. Faculty Senate Committee Liaisons were elected from the Faculty Senate and charged with calling committee meetings prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting. There was discussion to develop an Ad Hoc Faculty IT committee, in order to facilitate improved communication between faculty and their needs of software, hardware, and updates to IT, and vice versa. Dr. Michael Garoutte and Dr. Nick Nicoletti are spearheading this committee, with the intention of creating a formal Faculty IT committee for the next academic year.

The Faculty Senate considered one Academic Proposal: AP proposal: BUS SCOC report: BU 15-16_95, which was passed by vote.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee, with the approval of the Faculty Senate, has developed charges for the following committees:

1. Academic Policies Committee

Due to new legislation (Senate Bill 997) as well as MDHC's Blueprint for Higher Education, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would request an investigation into three areas specifically regarding Academic Affairs. They are:

- Review the current policy on Upper Division credit hour requirements for baccalaureate degree programs. Current policy states that a minimum of 40 semester hours of courses numbered 300-499 must be completed for a degree. The Proposed revision is to lower the requirement by 1 credit hour, with justification that 39 is divisible by 3 credit hours (majority of courses).
- Consider a change to the Baccalaureate Degree Requirement regarding the total number of Credit Hours. Current policy states that At least 124 semester hours of college credit applicable to a Baccalaureate Degree are required for graduation. The proposed revision is to lower the requirement by 4 credit hours, with the new policy stating:

At least 120 semester hours of college credit applicable to a Baccalaureate Degree are required for graduation.

Justification includes SSB 997 and the implementation of the "15 to Finish Act", leading to an on-time completion of a baccalaureate degree.

- Consider a change in institutional requirement for AA transfer students. Current Policy states:
First time transfer students who have completed the State of Missouri general education curriculum (42 semester hours) or have earned the Associate of Arts (AA) degree from a two-year or four-year regionally accredited U.S. institution prior to enrolling at MSSU are assumed to have met Areas A through H of the MSSU general education curriculum requirements with the possible exception of the state legislation requirement for the U.S. Constitution, Missouri Constitution and American History. See the Academic Affairs section of the catalog under State Legislation Requirements for more details. Transfer students must additionally meet requirements for Area I of the general education curriculum

The proposed revision is to remove "U.S." from the phrase "accredited U.S. institution", thereby allowing the policy to apply to schools outside of the U.S. The justification is to be less restrictive with international AA

transfer students. MSSU currently accepts an international baccalaureate degree as fulfilling all areas of the general education and would like to expand this practice to AA transfer students.

The Faculty Senate requests the Academic Policies Committee to review each of these items and give a report in the form of a recommendation to the Faculty Senate **at the November 7th Faculty Senate Meeting**

2. Faculty Welfare Committee

The FSEC has deemed it necessary for the Faculty Senate to review the recommendations by the Provost, and the committee working with the Provost, regarding summer school pay. Since this is a topic that requires a great deal of specificity, in addition to it being potentially sensitive, the Faculty Senate has determined the following charge for the Faculty Welfare Committee:

- Review the work already done by the Provost and committee in regards to the formula surrounding summer school enrollment and its effect on compensation for the faculty.
- Consider all outcomes of the proposed formula, both positive and negative, of such a formula and its effect on the faculty teaching summer school classes.
- If applicable, help to draft a policy for summer pay that is equitable for the faculty and the institution.

The Faculty Senate would ask the FWC, in conjunction with the Provost, Dr. Paula Carson and committee, to give a report, in the form of a recommendation, to the FS by the **October Faculty Senate Meeting, 2016**

Insurance Committee Liaison Dr. James Donelson submitted a report of the work of the Insurance Committee, along with information regarding the switch to partially self-insured. Many questions arose from faculty, which prompted another request to hold Q and A with HR, Cigna, and Gallagher (this has since been scheduled for the end of the month, with much thanks from the Faculty Senate!).

The next Faculty Senate Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley A. Creamer, PhD
2016-2017 Faculty Senate President