

Report of the Faculty Liaison to the Board of Governors

David L Sharlow, Faculty Senate President 2015-16
September 18, 2015

At the first meeting of the Faculty Senate (FS) on Monday, August 24, 2015, Dr. Brian Nichols, who had made the announcement previously at the All-Faculty Meeting on Friday, August 14, 2015, stepped down from the presidency due to his recent appointment as Associate Dean of the Plaster School of Business. In his place I, David Sharlow, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities/Music Education, was elected as Senate President.

I must admit... I am a bit overwhelmed, but honored to be here today serving in that capacity. This is my 6th year at Southern and I am excited to be a part of the leadership in helping to make Missouri Southern stand out as a destination place for academic excellence in all areas of study... indeed a place where the quality of education is second to none in the four-state area and beyond. It is my intent to carry on the vision of Dr. Nichols in terms of the five "main tasks" he mentioned in his report to you on Friday, August 19, 2015, which center around the newly adopted Faculty Handbook (FHB). I preface these five tasks, which are as follows, with the statement that it is my intention to make use of the FHB as a guiding resource for FS business, BUT with the understanding that we the FS be open to the realities of the pitfalls and roadblocks that may lay hidden between the rubrics and rhetoric of the FHB AND... it is our job as a governing body of this institution to iron out those areas of confusion and difficulty by asking questions and involving others:

1. Establish the new faculty evaluation procedures and training for the evaluators
2. Appoint members to the new Tenure committee
3. Develop the faculty mentoring and colleague appraisal systems
4. Implement the assessment tools for teaching, scholarly/creative activity, and service
5. Ensure that the new structure of the Academic Policies Committee (APC) and School Curriculum Oversight Committee (SCOC) function smoothly

Particularly in regards to #5, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) and I have already begun to work closely with the Provost, Deans, APC, and SCOCs in smoothing out the process of approving curricular changes/additions/deletions – indeed a most important policy procedure in regards to the academic foundation of this university AND one that has had significant changes due to the new policies found in the FHB. We, the aforementioned people and groups, are working in a spirit of cooperation in understanding these new changes that have been mandated by the document that governs our work. To say we are "off and running" in regards to making the FHB useful, accessible, and central to our way of doing things, might be an understatement... but one that I feel has been met with an overall sense of duty, purpose, and positivity by all involved.

With that...

As your Faculty Senate President, I vow to lead by involving the FS and the FSEC specifically, heavily in the decisions that need to be made by us – working for consensus, BUT always giving room for discussion and opinions that others make based on their own convictions and experiences as academicians, leaders, and most importantly... humans. I am capable of making the necessary stand-alone tough calls when asked to do so, BUT I feel listening and acting based upon what others have to share is much more effective and prosperous. I value input and conversation... THIS is how I teach AND consequently how I intend to lead the FS and FSEC to work with the Faculty, the Administration, and of course... You, the Board of Governors.

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