

## ***Report of the Faculty Liaison to the Board of Governors***

Brian Nichols, Faculty Senate President 2015-16

August 19, 2015

The All-Faculty meeting on Friday, August 14 marked the official return to campus for the Fall semester, and faculty seemed eager to start a new year. The reports by Drs. Marble, Hodson, and Carson were very informative and well-received by the faculty. I believe that I can speak for all the faculty when I say that I look forward to working with Dr. Carson to move MSSU forward academically in her role as VPAA/Provost. This week, faculty and students are getting their fall classes off to a great start.

Faculty Senate is holding elections this week to fill the many committee vacancies needed to carry out the work of the institution. The main tasks that I hope to make progress on this academic year concern the implementation of the new Faculty Handbook, which include:

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 and School Curriculum Oversight committees function smoothly

I do have to share an announcement that I made at the All-Faculty meeting. The Plaster School of Business is going to begin the candidacy process to become accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). We are currently accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), but the majority of business schools are accredited by AACSB, which is the better known of the two accrediting bodies. In Missouri, only Northwest Missouri State and MSSU are accredited by ACBSP; all the other state universities' business schools are accredited by AACSB. We believe that moving to AACSB will enhance our status as a school and allow us to better compete with other universities as we continue to develop our own graduate programs.

Because of this initiative, we are restructuring the PSOB academic unit from two departments with department chairs to one unit with an associate dean for faculty affairs and an assistant dean for student affairs. I have accepted the position of associate dean; Tom Schmidt will be the assistant dean, and Michelle Dawson will hold the position of academic support specialist to support us with assessment and the accreditation process.

My new position as associate dean includes a half-time release from coursework, and according to the Faculty Handbook, the Faculty Senate President must be a full-time instructional faculty member that gives at least 51% of his or her time to instruction. Therefore I am no longer eligible to hold office as President. I will fulfill my duties until the first Faculty Senate meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup>, at which time we will hold an election to fill the position. I am eligible to finish my term as Faculty Senate member and will remain on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Nichols

2015-2016 Faculty Senate President