

# MISSOURI SOUTHERN

## STATE UNIVERSITY

### FACULTY SENATE

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

David L. Sharlow, Faculty Senate President 2015-16

as given by Bradley Creamer, Faculty Senate President Elect

April 15, 2016

At the Faculty Senate's meeting on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 3:00pm we had a full agenda, which included reports from the administration and much discussion about the preceding proposals; some of which were approved and some of which were tabled and/or not approved. It was a busy, but productive meeting, with a great deal of thoughtful discussion; so much so that we were unable to get to our committee reports. In this light, we changed the meeting format to accommodate the important topics related to Faculty Senate action by moving "old business" and "new business" to the front the meeting following my report, the reports from the administration, and the staff senate reports. With that, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee continues to meet with the Presidents Council, which has proven to not only be industrious, but a great deal of fun, as we all work together very well!

#### **Academic Policies Committee Proposals:**

- At the meeting on April 4, 2016, the Faculty Senate voted to adopt the following reports of the SCOCs in full:
  - **Arts and Sciences SCOC Report: AS 15-16:57 – AS 15-16:60**, which included Special Topics in Social Work, Independent Study in Social Work, and a Geography of Europe as it relates to the Social Sciences.
  - **Plaster School of Business SCOC Report: BU 15-16: 89 and BU 15-16:91**, which included the official discontinuation of CAD operator and Manufacturing Applications (was discontinued years ago by practice, but not by formal removal) AND a proposal for an Introduction to Machine Tool Process class offering.
- At the meeting on April 4, 2016, the Faculty Senate voted to table the following report of the Academic Policies Committee in full: **Report AP 15.16.08 Social Work Curriculum Update**

There was concern among senators that SW 470 and 475 (the courses replacing SOC 305 and SOC 401) were not included as course proposals for Faculty Senate to review. We were unable to clear up the confusion regarding the two courses (which were presumed to be new) during the meeting. FS tabled the proposal until the May meeting. FSEC has since determined that SW 470 and SW 475 are already included in the 2016-2017 catalog and are not new courses.
- At the meeting on April 4, 2016, the Faculty Senate voted to reject the following report of the Academic Policies Committee in full: **Report AP 15-16: 10 – Prerequisite Core Curriculum for Upper Division Courses.**

This report prompted lengthy discussion among Senators, who expressed myriad concerns. One concern was the inclusion of COMM 100, which many consider problematic in its current format. Another concern was that the proposed prerequisites should include more courses, such as math courses, before the proposal could be viable. Senators requested data to demonstrate that a core curriculum would improve student performance. Other Senators expressed concern that the prerequisites usurped departmental authority, prevented advisors from enrolling majors in upper-division courses early to keep them interested in their programs, and simply created more red-tape and needs for overrides by advisors.

**Graduate Council Committee Proposals:** At the meeting on April 4, 2016, the Faculty Senate voted to adopt a GC Report containing the following curricular changes: 15-16:02; 15-16:06; 15-16:07; and G15-16:09, which included graduate courses regarding Internship in Teaching, Foundations of School Administration, Administration Leadership for the School of Education AND Graduate Topics in Biology in the School of Arts and Sciences. As an aside, the Graduate Council Committee acts as its own SCOC (School Curriculum Oversight Committee) pertaining to all graduate courses, whereas the SCOCs particularly deal with undergraduate course additions/changes/deletions.

**Faculty Handbook Changes:** We had a first reading of proposed updates/changes/additions/deletions to the Faculty Handbook as proposed by the Faculty Handbook Committee. We had guests from the floor who spoke of their concerns about both the process of proposing changes in wording to the tenure and promotion section and about some of its content. Much discussion resulted because of this. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be proposing to the Faculty at our next Faculty Meeting that the Faculty Senate be given the convening authority to make changes/additions/deletions to the Faculty Handbook when it comes to **operational procedures** involving updates, language/grammar mistakes, and anything related to facilitating a more efficient system of operation; whereas **handbook policies** by which all policies and procedures regarding the Faculty body are measured and evaluated will be left to the Faculty to vote on. This request is an effort to relieve the Faculty from having to vote on trivial matters,

entrust Faculty Senators with the ability to make decisions based on them representing their constituents faithfully, and simply to save time.

**Intellectual Property Policy:** There has been much concern from Faculty that an intellectual property policy is being considered without faculty input. FSEC has assured Faculty that there is indeed no policy being pushed through at this time related to the subject of intellectual property by anyone, nor will there be this year. In fact, FSEC and the President's Council had considerable good discussion on this topic at our meeting prior to the aforementioned Faculty Senate meeting. In keeping with the practice of shared governance, it is encouraging that the Administration does for certain want *much* input from us. As I have said many times, the Administration and FSEC work together quite well AND although much work has been done on this topic of intellectual property in the past under the previous administration, I am happy to report both groups – FSEC and the Administration – feel that, given the changes in administration since 2012, more work needs to be done by both parties *together* in the present to draft a document that meets the needs of where the University is going currently; which in many cases is significantly different than back in 2012. THIS may mean using the 2012 document as a guide, BUT it may also mean once again gathering more data, which will require more research and continued discussion. In conclusion...The way FSEC will approach this, at the request of the Administration, is to charge a FS committee (Faculty Welfare Committee most likely) to work closely with the Administration to help develop this policy – a policy that will NOT go to the BOGs for approval immediately, but only after a process of checkpoints that will heavily involve the faculty going forward. The Administration wants this process to get started immediately, as it is a most important policy to have in place to protect all said parties, but again... they don't want to rush the process in any way so as to exclude anyone. They want to work together with us AND FSEC welcomes this most important collegiality of thought and action.

**All-Faculty Meeting:** The end-of-the-year All-Faculty Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 3:00pm in Cornell Auditorium in Plaster. At this meeting the Faculty will be voting Faculty Senator At-Large positions for the 2016-2017 School Year, the aforementioned proposal from FSEC regarding convening authority to make changes to the Faculty Handbook. Some awards will also be given to faculty at this time. Also addressed will be the several open positions in Faculty Senate Committees and Administrative Committees. An email was sent to Deans, Department Chairs, and the Faculty regarding these open seats – much interest has been generated thus far from Faculty who are interested in serving.

**Curricular Documents (CRDs):** We had a very successful meeting of brainstorming led by Faculty Senate Secretary, Dr. Megan Bever this past Thursday, March 31. Another meeting may be in the works to tie up loose ends... However, the meeting generated good discussion and a productive outcome in moving forward toward a more efficient process of handling the paperwork regarding curricular changes/additions/deletions.

**UE 100:** A report from Darren Fullerton will be forthcoming

**COMM 100:** Nothing to report at this time...

**Last Senate Meeting of 2015-2016:** The Final Faculty Senate Meeting will be on Monday, May 2 at 3:00pm here in the Board Room. It promises to be a full agenda, with the conclusion of the meeting being the installation of next year's senators/senate-leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

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