

# MISSOURI SOUTHERN

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## STATE UNIVERSITY

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### FACULTY SENATE

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

David L Sharlow, Faculty Senate President 2015-16

January 21, 2016

At our last meeting of 2015, which was on Monday, December 7, 2015, the Faculty Senate had a full agenda. From hearing guests to voting on the approval of curricular proposals, we met for two hours. We heard from the Administration on items concerning the implementation of the *Phased Retirement* rollout, 100% tuition for children and spouses of MSSU employees, and requests from the Office of Academic Affairs regarding moving ahead, *albeit purposefully and wisely*, on the faculty evaluations, promotion, and tenure.

Dr. Brad Hodson was invited to speak regarding the *Political Activity Policy*, which he is putting together to help guide us as we move forward in this political year and the many years to come. He asked, at the University Council Meeting a couple of months ago, to speak to important university groups (especially to the Faculty Senate) so as to gather ideas, thoughts, and suggestions before proceeding any further AND in this spirit, he presented an insightful discourse of the reason for the proposed policy and what it would mean for us here at MSSU. The senators, who asked thought provoking questions, welcomed his presentation.

There was no old business, but in new business the discussion of textbook buyers was discussed in regards to how to address book buyers who stop by faculty offices, sometimes annoying department secretaries, to purchase unwanted books. Possible solutions were discussed, but it was ultimately decided by senators to be passed on to the University Council to discuss at their December meeting. However, the University Council punted it back to the Faculty Senate, so it will be up for discussion at our next meeting. The bottom line... nothing was resolved and most likely it will be charged to a committee of some kind to come up with a policy that will addresses these solicitors, which on the whole seems to create mixed feelings amongst the faculty. Some don't mind, while others do. However, it seems to be the consensus something be put in formal writing, approved, and adopted to avoid any confusion.

Also in new business, the library asked they be included on the routing document for curricular changes/additions/deletions. The senators were open to the idea and seemingly agreed to it with head nods, but no formal motion was approved. A mechanism is in place for this and it was suggested that this be the procedure for making such a change.

Two sets of curriculum were approved: the HS 15-16:05 Health Sciences course, which was not approved at the November meeting due to wording, was represented with the suggested changes, and was consequently approved. Also approved were 12 graduate courses, which were presented by the Graduate Council. As I recall, this is a first for this to happen – that is graduate course changes/additions/deletions being presented as a result of the graduate degrees we are now offering.

Two sets of charges were given to two committees: One to the Academic Policies Committee and one to the Faculty Welfare Committee. In short...

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

The Faculty Senate would ask the APC, in conjunction with the Provost, Dr. Paula Carson, to review each of these items and give a report in the form of a recommendation to the FS by the **April Faculty Senate Meeting, 2016**.

1. Review the current residency requirement in regards to it being consistent with our peer institutions, but more importantly, its applicability for student success and graduation.

2. Address faculty advising, enrolling and instructing dependents, guidelines from Family Relationship Protocol and Family Education Rights (FERPA) and potential grading issues.
3. Review the institutional requirements for admission to upper division course and if our current prerequisites are sufficient to facilitate student success.
2. Consider the development of student learning objectives in the Bachelor of General Studies to support assessment.

#### **Faculty Welfare Committee:**

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 **April Faculty Senate Meeting, 2016**.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. If applicable, help to draft a policy for summer pay that is equitable for the faculty and the institution.

Finally,

In retrospect of the first semester, I think I can say it began, proceeded, and ended well. I can also attest the five weeks of break was commented on by both students and faculty alike as being just the right amount of time off for rejuvenation. I concur with this thought as it personally allowed me the chance to get away, see family, and prepare for the semester ahead. That said... I believe we are off to a good start for the Spring. At the Inservice meeting last Friday, January 15, there was a tremendous spirit of goodwill and sincerity. I congratulate the administration for setting a most positive tone. There was much laughter and excitement and overall it was quite a contagiously optimistic atmosphere. In closing, I will add this thought I shared with my colleagues at the close of the meeting:

In closing, last semester I did a work with my students entitled "O Day Full of Grace". As you may know, much of the music written for choirs is of a religious bent – given its place in the church and the church in history – BUT I always present each selection in such a way that if you are not religious, you can A) sing it for it's sheer beauty, B) sing it for its historical-arts value, or of course C) sing it for what it means to you religiously or non-religiously. The piece starts with the basses slowing entering with the words "O Day", with the tenors joining soon after, then the altos, and then finally the sopranos to create the sense of the dawning day marked by the rising of the sun. In preparing them to sing this work, I told them the greatest thing about being a student, albeit anyone in education, is that you always get to begin again – many, many beginnings in the life of someone who is in education. We get to begin a new year... a new semester... a new class, etc. many, many times over. We in education don't have to settle for the finality of what happened in one class or in one semester, or in one year – or even in one day. We can begin again with the knowledge of what we didn't do so well and apply it to the new experience to make it better. DEAR FRIENDS... I implore you to start this new semester with the energy not just a new semester, a new class, OR the restart of an old class, BUT of a new year marked by the perspective of things learned and the excitement of new things to come. AND... With that... Welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

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2015-2016 Faculty Senate President