

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Report of the Faculty Liaison to the Board of Governors

David L Sharlow, Faculty Senate President 2015-16

February 19, 2016

Today's report is a bit shorter than last month in that the Faculty Senate didn't have too much to discuss at their last meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016. That said, there is A LOT going on, however some things are still "in process" and I have no update on them as of the last Board of Governors Meeting.

With that, I would like to report the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has begun receiving responses, in the form of reports and recommendations, from the several charges we issued at the end of first semester to the various committees – most specifically to the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) and Academic Policies Committee (APC). In the new business of our last meeting, the Faculty Senate voted to adopt by acclamation, the following report of the Academic Policies Committee in full: Report 15.16.03 Residency Degree Requirements. This report/recommendation addressed the first bullet point of several bullets of an overall charge that was given to the APC regarding their charged work with the Office of Academic Affairs. Because of the several points, the FSEC agreed to accept these individual addressed points, as they are finished in an effort to move the process along. The charge read:

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. Consideration should be given to the current policy from page 44 of the 2015-16 catalog regarding residency: The following minimum requirements must be met in residence at Missouri Southern: (1) 30 of the last 36 hours counted toward the degree; (2) one-half of the credit both required for the major and in the major department. Courses required for the major but not offered in the major department are not included; (3) one-half of the upper division credit both required for the major and in the major department. A proposed policy from Dr. Carson (removing "of the last 36 hours") may include the following in regards to residence: The following minimum requirements must be met in residence at Missouri Southern: (1) 30 hours completed with MSSU; (2) one-half of the credit both required for the major and in the major department. Courses required for the major but not offered in the major department are not included; (3) one-half of the upper division credit both required for the major and in the major department.

The adopted recommendation by the APC to the FS reads a change in institutional residency requirement for baccalaureate degree programs.

Current Policy: From page 44 of the 2015-16 catalog: Residence: The following minimum requirements must be met in residence at Missouri Southern: (1) 30 of the last 36 hours counted toward the degree; (2) one-half of the credit both required for the major and in the major department. Courses required for the major but not offered in the major department are not included; (3) one-half of the upper division credit both required for the major and in the major department.

Proposed Policy (removing "of the last 36 hours"): Residence: The following minimum requirements must be met in residence at Missouri Southern: (1) 30 hours completed with MSSU; (2) one-half of the credit both required for the major and in the major department. Courses required for the major but not offered in the major department are not included; (3) one-half of the upper division credit both required for the major and in the major department.

Justification: As other policies are being reviewed to accommodate current trends and political initiatives, and when exceptions to the rule are trending to becoming the norm, it is time to review the residency requirement. A recent survey of other institutions found that there are a wide variety of institutional residency requirements. The proposed policy is in line with other Missouri schools. Changing the policy will also fit with MDHE initiatives to better serve transfer students and be more in line with our military friendly initiatives

We have sent this adoption on to the Provost, Dr. Paula Carson.

FSEC feels good about that the process is working well in that last week; we received yet further responses to several others charges made to Academic Policies Committee first semester. I will report on them next month, as the Faculty Senate has not voted them on because we have not yet met. However, two things stand out about this as being great... ones I would like to highlight:

- Firstly, the process of sending charges to committees has been a great exercise in delegation and with that, responsibility and ownership have been given to our committees to do and be a part of making MSSU a great academic institution AND great place to work.
- Secondly, given the change in the Academic Policies Committee's focus as an overseer of the more broad academic issues, rather than only giving their endorsement on the narrowed focus of curriculum approval, as has been the past routine, they have acted in a manner as being indeed the purveyors of academia by taking these charges seriously AND because of that, the above recommendation was given much thought and research. The result is a report/recommendation that has the

expertise and knowledge behind it of true academicians focused on the important issues that form the basis of this institution academically.

That said, already having reviewed the APC's aforementioned recent report, which the Faculty Senate will review next meeting, I can attest that indeed this was an important positive step in changing the direction and purpose of the APC as it relates to the academic policies that bind us together as an educational institution of higher learning.

Other things we addressed included the following:

- The issue of Textbook Buyers was sent to the Staff Senate for their discussion and recommendation.
- Our Faculty Representative, Dr. John Summerfield, attended the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS) meeting in Jefferson City on February 15-16, 2016. As Past Faculty Senate President, Dr. Michael Garoutte explained, this body is a support network for Faculty Senates across the state. MSSU is a voting member. Ideally, FSEC would like to send two representatives – who are NOT on Executive Committee – to the bi-annual meeting on a rotating basis, which will be funded by the FS travel fund. As the current Faculty Senate President, I sent a report, which Dr. Summerfield was able to give at the meeting.
- Three new proposed Graduate Courses, related to the MS Management degree, were approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

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