

# 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

March 18, 2016

Faculty Senate's last meeting was on Monday, March 7 at 3:00pm. We had a full agenda, which included reports from the administration, reports from Faculty Senate committees, and proposals: some of which were voted on and approved and some that were tabled until next meeting. With that, the FSEC continues to meet with the Presidents Council, which has proven to not only be productive, but a great deal of fun, as we all work together very well!

**Phased Retirement:** The Faculty Welfare Committee, a Faculty Senate committee, helped with this document and we are very happy this is moving forward, in that according to Evan Jewsbury, there were 18 applicants and out of those 18, ALL were accepted for this program.

**FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act):** We have visited with the President's Council and Evan Jewsbury on this issue as it pertains to the formula for family and medical leaves. No decisions OR movement has happened yet... more to come on in the future.

**UE 100:** Much progress has been made on this and, according to Darren Fullerton, a proposal, before or shortly after Spring Break, will be made as to what will become of this class in terms of it's what, when, and how.

**Southern Welcome:** There have been several concerns about freshmen having to enroll in online courses INSTEAD of face-to-face classes because these classes are already closed by the time of Southern Welcome. Specifically beginning Gen Ed courses, AND courses that are a prerequisite for future upper division courses, are the ones that are not open by the time these new students enroll at this later date. This concern was brought to Dr. Carson and Darren Fullerton. They agree this is a problem in that they believe incoming freshmen specifically need to be nurtured into the university environment and doing that face-to-face is really the only way to ensure their success. Dr. Carson is currently working with Deans and Department Chairs in regards to this.

**Curricular Documents (CRDs):** There have been several concern as to the documents that must accompany curricular changes/additions/deletions. Specifically, does the CRDs achieve their purpose... that is to make sure all necessary parties have perused said proposals, while also being uniform in terms of the what, why, and how of the documents themselves? **Dr. Megan Bever, Faculty Senate Secretary, has been awesome** so far on this whole thing and came up with a great idea that FSEC have a workshop for all who are involved in the process to make this document do the aforementioned things. It is our belief this document be user friendly AND involving those who work with the document closely and regularly seems to be the best way to solve the many questions and concerns that surround it. We feel their input to be most valuable! That meeting will be happening **Thursday, March 31 from 9-11pm**. A light breakfast will be served to help motivate, caffeinate, and regenerate!

**Calendar of Meetings:** Please note the meeting schedule of time of when these groups will meet:

- **Faculty Senate** will always meet on the **first** of Monday of every month
- **GEOC** will meet the **second** week of the month on whatever day works for them collectively
- **SCOCs** will meet the **third** week of the month on whatever day works for them collectively
- **APC** will meet the **fourth** week of the month on whatever day works for them collectively, BUT given the history of this group, most likely this will be on Mondays.

**Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS):** On behalf of the FS, I sent a report to the MAFS convention, which happened in February. I gave a report that summarized our **focuses**, which I stated as being to "enact" our new Faculty Handbook. I was also asked to list our **accomplishments**, which I stated as being the charges that FSEC has given to various FS committees that have come back in the form of well-researched reports and proposals. As for our **goals**, I said that we continue to work to build a strong relationship with the administration in working together. AND in conclusion, for **university news**, I mentioned our Your's To Lose Program that we are all very excited about! Dr. John Summerfield was our representative and gave a written report to the Faculty Senate. In summation, two topics MAFS is interested in revolve around two bills in the Missouri Legislature:

1. **Duel Credit (AP courses):** The consensus of MAFS is that they are comfortable with this bill in that it there is a plan in this bill to provide scholarships for duel credit students.

2. **Concealed Carry:** As has been reported by Dr. Marble in regards to the right to carry a gun onto college campuses. MAFS has sent this resolution:

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FACULTY SENATES  
RESOLUTION ARTICULATING OPPOSITION TO CONCEAL AND CARRY ON CAMPUS

- Whereas, colleges and universities in the state of Missouri are concerned with the safety of its students, faculty, staff, and guests, and
- Whereas, colleges and universities have carefully considered their policies related to possession of firearms on campus,
- Whereas, colleges and universities provide options for student gun owners to safely store guns and access them for off-campus, recreational use,
- Whereas, no public universities are “gun-free zones” since they all have armed security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
- Whereas, active shooter response teams could easily become confused by the presence of additional guns at active shooter events regardless of the intent of those individuals,
- Whereas, alcohol and mental health concerns on campus are amplified with the increased presence of guns,
- Whereas, suicide is the number one cause of death among college students and the increased presence of guns on campus will make it easier for suicidal students to access lethal weapons, and
- Whereas, unlike in other states where the age requirement for concealed carry is 21, in Missouri it is 19,

Be it therefore resolved, that the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates, composed of the elected senates of the public, four-year colleges and universities, **favors local university control over its rules for when and where students, faculty, staff, and visitors may possess firearms on campus**, and Be it further resolved that the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates **opposes legislation that would override local control and require campuses to permit students, faculty, staff, and visitors to carry concealed weapons on campus.**

**Faculty Senate Charges:** Once again, the Academic Policies Committee was diligent in sending back to the Faculty Senate their recommendation and proposal for charges that were given them last semester. THIS system is working quite well and FSEC is very happy with the APC’s work. This last response was in regards to a 5-point charge FSEC gave the APC at the first of last semester that centered around this issue of textbook adoption: rental/purchasing, access codes, and academic freedom. APC’s proposal/report was accepted/approved by the faculty senate unanimously. Here are a few highlights:

**1. “Gather data to examine the extent of the use of digital content at MSSU in regards to the communal, across-the-university, access codes with systems like Blackboard AND those that are singularly unique to schools, departments, and courses in the form of access codes related to adopted textbooks.”**

To address item 1 and provide the foundation for addressing the other items in the charge, the APC requested MSSU Bookstore sales data for all required-purchase materials (digital/ electronic and traditional) from Fall 2013 through Fall 2015.

**2. “Compare/Contrast this data and the financial impact of all purchased access codes on MSSU students.”**

The APC concluded that, although the total costs associated with digital/electronic materials are substantial, they are similar to the costs associated with traditional materials.

**3. Consider the negative effects of making an overarching policy that could possibly limit instructors/departments/schools in choosing appropriate textbooks insofar as its effect on issues of academic freedom as it pertains to the ability for faculty to choose texts and course materials.**

The APC concluded that faculty are in the best position to make decisions about course materials and should be provided with information to inform those decisions. Further, the APC respects and supports the academic freedom of faculty to make decisions about the content and nature (digital/electronic or traditional) of materials required for their course. The APC recommends that faculty maintain the authority and freedom to choose materials for courses regardless of the format of the materials. The APC also recommends that the MSSU Bookstore, when possible, should include the most recent cost of purchase (required and optional) items on the textbook adoption forms. The goal of the recommendation is to allow faculty to have cost information available during decision making and to encourage faculty to consider cost when selecting materials.

With regard to item 4 of the FS charge,

**4. “With #2 in mind, compare/contrast access code purchases as they relate to textbook adoption with the consideration of the advantages/disadvantages of purchased/rented textbook and textbook materials.”**

The APC recommends an annual review of sales data for course materials and reconsideration of the issues investigated for the current charge. If future data indicate the proliferation of the use of digital/electronic materials that results in substantial increases in the cost to students, then perhaps a policy should be reconsidered; however, future reconsideration of an overarching policy should preserve the academic freedom of faculty to select course materials.

**5. “With the impact of #4 in mind, determine whether a policy that establishes guidelines for the use of adopting electronic course materials for purchase needs to be created, and if so, draft a proposed policy.”**

APC does not recommend creating a policy that establishes guidelines for the adoption of digital/electronic course materials at this time. The APC believes that faculty members are in the best position to make decisions regarding the adoption of course materials.

The APC recommends that faculty consider whether the cost of materials is consistent with the benefit the materials provide.

Respectfully submitted,

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