

# 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

June 09, 2016

The end of April and first of May was a busy time for the Faculty Senate in that we had an All-Faculty meeting on Wednesday, April 27 and our final Faculty Senate meeting on Monday, May 2. However, although busy with many things which needed to be discussed, approved, and voted on, both meetings proved to be successful and productive.

**Faculty Handbook Changes:** We had a second reading of proposed updates/changes/additions/deletions to the Faculty Handbook as proposed by the Faculty Handbook Committee. We had proposals which could be divided into two categories: **operational procedures** involving updates language/grammar mistakes and anything related to facilitating a more efficient system of operation; AND **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. All proposals (both *operational procedures* and *handbook policies*) were voted on and approved by the Faculty Senate with acclamation. The three *handbook policies* were then sent onto the Faculty for their vote via email. They were ultimately approved by the Faculty with a high percentage (92% or better) of votes in favor of these changes. Noted *handbook policy changes* were:

- **Proposal 2015-16:01:** All-Faculty Meetings – In this proposal the Faculty Senate Executive Committee proposed that two meetings that begin the semesters (fall and spring) should be led by the office of Academic Affairs “in conversation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee”, whereas the spring semester end-of-the-year meeting should be led by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee “in conversation with the Office of Academic Affairs”.
- **Proposal 2015-16:03:** Faculty Senate Representation: Health Sciences – In this proposal it was determined by the Faculty Handbook Committee that, given the growth in the Health Sciences, they needed to have more representation and so the number of FS representatives was increased.
- **Proposal 2015-16:10:** Faculty Handbook Committee Duties – In this proposal it was determined by the Faculty Handbook Committee that the current language makes it a rather arduous burden for this committee to review the entire handbook yearly and given the attempt to preserve the practice of to have the entire Faculty Organization vote on changes to the Constitution or Bylaws, the language was changed to require this committee to review every 10 years instead.

**Textbook Buyer Policy:** The proposed textbook buyer policy that prevents textbook buyers from purchasing books from the Faculty, which was developed and approved by the Staff Senate, was sent onto the Faculty Senate for our approval. The proposed policy failed.

**Mission, Vision, and Values:** Was affirmed unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

**Concealed Carry:** Faculty Senate affirmed the following resolution by the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS) with acclamation.

#### 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.**

**Academic Policies Committee Proposals and Graduate Council Committee Proposals:** All of the several curricular changes/additions/deletions were approved by the Faculty Senate by acclamation. These were sent onto the Office of Academic Affairs. Also to note was the **improved curricular routing document**, which was adopted and approved by the Faculty Senate by acclamation.

Finally, In closing on a personal note... I want to thank you, the Board of Governors, for a chance to work with you this year. Indeed, I feel I can say I learned a great deal. However, more importantly, I have met some fantastic people... people I am pleased to know as humans, but also as the leaders of this university. I feel we are headed in a great direction in regards not just to our finances and resources per se, but specifically in regards to our status as an educational leader in what we have to offer students from an academic and cultural perspective! Special thanks to you for your wisdom in asking the pertinent questions and making the difficult decisions. Also much thanks to Dr. Marble for his vision, energy, and insight on how to take this university in the direction that will make us a destination place for future students most certainly, BUT also how to make this university a vested part of the Joplin community. I have had a great time knowing more about how MSSU works and for this, I have learned more than I can express. Much appreciated certainly! Have a GREAT summer!

Respectfully submitted,

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