

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Matters, Fall 2023

Members

- Lanya Lamouria, Past Secretary of the Faculty (Committee Chair)
- Elizabeth Walker, Chair of Faculty Senate
- Scott Zimmerman, Chair-Elect of Faculty Senate
- Melinda Novik, Secretary of the Faculty
- Michael Hudson, Past Chair of Faculty Senate
- Subhasree Basu Roy, Provost Fellow for Learning and Curriculum
- Katrina Chavez, Associate Registrar-Course and Curriculum Management
- Sandra Johnson, Administrative Specialist III, Faculty Senate

Background

Faculty Senate passed a motion at the April 10, 2023, meeting to charge the Rules Committee with the creation of a new Faculty Senate “Committee on Curricular Matters” (Internal Senate Action 3-22/23). Since the Rules Committee will not complete this work until the Spring of 2024, Faculty Senate was asked to convene an Ad Hoc version of the Committee for 2023-2024. This motion was approved (Internal Senate Action 4-22/23).

The charge of the Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Matters (see below) includes the preparation of an annual report to be presented at Faculty Senate during the fall semester.

Charge of Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Matters

- Continuously reviewing the university’s curricular processes, practices, actions, and systems to ensure they reflect the curricular process outlined in the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Any recommendations and/or resolutions of the Committee shall be directed to the Faculty Senate for appropriate disposition.
- Serving as a vehicle through which Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Registrar may introduce items of concern for discussion and consideration.
- Inviting the submission of items of concern regarding curricular matters from faculty members or administrators for discussion.
- **Preparing an annual report to be presented at Faculty Senate and posted to the Faculty Senate website during the fall semester.** The report should (1) include data on the number of curricular proposals submitted and approved during the previous academic year, distinguishing between types of proposals; (2) describe any substantial changes made to curricular processes, practices, or systems; (3) explain items of concern that were discussed and/or addressed; and (4) outline the process by which items of concern can be submitted to the committee.

Membership

- The membership of the Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Matters should consist of a past Secretary of the Faculty, who would be chair of the Committee on Curricular Matters; the Chair of the Faculty Senate; the Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate; the Secretary of the Faculty; and the Past Chair of the Faculty Senate. The administrative

specialist for Faculty Senate, a designee of the Office of the Provost, a designee of the Office of the Registrar, and any other additional representative(s) as designated by the chair would serve as *ex officio* members without vote.

Annual Report

The Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Matters held four meetings during the Fall 2023 semester. While the data on proposals are based on the previous academic year (2022-2023), all other information is based on the Committee's work in Fall 2023.

- (1) Data on number of curricular proposals submitted and approved, 2022-2023

Note: These numbers, based on a manual account, are approximate.

Total submitted: 830

- Approved: 614
- Pending (i.e., moved forward to 2023-2024): 147
- Withdrawn by originator: 66
- Rejected at College Council level and not yet resubmitted in 2023-2024: 3
- Denied at Faculty Senate Executive Committee level: 1 (subsequently resubmitted and approved)

Approved proposals by proposal type:

- Change Course Proposals: 291
- Delete Course Proposals: 28
- New Course Proposals: 110
- Change Program Proposals: 153
- Delete Program Proposals: 9
- New Program Proposals: 23

- (2) In Fall 2023, no substantial changes were made to the curricular processes, practices, or systems.
- (3) In Fall 2023, the Committee discussed and addressed several minor concerns related to the current curricular system (for example, nonfunctional submission forms and webpages). However, the Committee's main project for 2023-2024 is preparing for the implementation of the new Curriculog curriculum management system, which should go live in Fall 2024. Committee members from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee are working closely with members representing the Offices of the Provost and Registrar to ensure that the Curriculog workflow follows the current Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws. The Committee will summarize its recommendations during a Spring 2024 presentation to Faculty Senate on Curriculog.
- (4) To submit items of concern, email the current Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Matters (currently, Lanya Lamouria) or the Chair of Faculty Senate (currently, Elizabeth Walker).

**Senate Action Conferring Honorary Baccalaureate Degree
Upon David Trottier**

WHEREAS, the honorary baccalaureate is awarded to “recognize the extraordinary achievements of distinguished citizens” especially those with “a strong tie to this community, state, or region”; and

WHEREAS, David Trottier has, as both a private individual and as President of Smitty’s supermarkets, a decades long record of generous support for a variety of local institutions working to improve the quality of life in Springfield and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, David Trottier has in particular been a strong supporter of local education from Kindergarten through college; and

WHEREAS, David Trottier has over the years, shown a personal commitment to community engagement by acting as a valued mentor to colleagues and employees; and

WHEREAS, the demands of business which significantly increased his ability to help support his contributions to improving life in Springfield and the surrounding area also prevented him from completing a baccalaureate degree;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Missouri State University, meeting on this seventh day of December, 2023, recommend to the university’s Board of Governors that the honorary baccalaureate degree be conferred upon David Trottier at the Commencement ceremony in May 2024 in recognition of his long record of civic support and engagement.

Senate Action on Appointment of an Impartial Ombudsperson

Whereas we, the faculty, acknowledge the importance of having an Ombudsperson to address grievances and conflicts within our academic community; and

Whereas the current arrangement, in which the Dean of the Graduate College concurrently serves as the Ombudsperson and reports directly to the Provost, raises significant questions about impartiality; and

Whereas the role of an Ombudsperson is pivotal in ensuring fair and unbiased resolution of issues affecting faculty, students, and staff; and

Whereas impartiality is a fundamental principle of the Ombudsperson role, inspiring confidence that concerns will be handled objectively and without undue influence; and

Whereas the appointment of an Ombudsperson is independent of the administrative hierarchy to foster an environment of trust and transparency; and

Whereas an impartial Ombudsperson will be better equipped to address the diverse range of issues in our academic community, from faculty disputes to student concerns, without any perceived bias,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of MSU requests the university administration to reconsider the current appointment of the Dean of the Graduate College as the Ombudsperson.

Be it further resolved that we urge the university administration to explore alternative candidates who can serve as an Ombudsperson with greater impartiality and dedication to resolving conflicts fairly.

Be it further resolved that we firmly believe that the appointment of a truly impartial Ombudsperson will contribute significantly to fostering a harmonious and productive academic environment for all members of MSU.