

VIII.A. Missouri State University Faculty Senate Report to MSU Board of Governors December 13th, 2018 Tom Dicke, Chair, Faculty Senate 2018-2019; Professor of History TomDicke@MissouriState.edu In the previous report you received from Faculty Senate I presented a brief overview of faculty activities. As a reminder: The fundamental functions of the roughly 760 ranked faculty on the Springfield campus are teaching, research, and service. In teaching, this year MSU faculty will provide instruction to over 24,000 students. In research, during 2017 MSU faculty produced 401 publications or other original works. I estimate the total for 2018 will look much the same. In service, much of our efforts revolve around making sure our curriculum remains up-to-date and relevant. With these goals in mind last year the University processed over 650 curricular changes all of which originated with faculty and went through multiple levels of faculty and administrative review. Those numbers will probably be about the same this year. The previous report also noted widespread faculty concern over compensation, which has, despite the best efforts of administration, failed to keep pace with the cost of living for several years. That concern remains. All of the above is the context for the activities of Faculty Senate described below. It has been a busy semester for Senate. In addition to the regular work of the dozen plus standing committees which provide faculty input, oversight, or coordination in a variety of areas, two ad hoc committees were appointed this semester and have largely completed their work. The Ad Hoc Committee on Internet Compensation, a joint President/Senate committee, was charged to recommend to the President options for the redistribution of \$335,000 in funds generated by a reduction in the stipend faculty receive for teaching internet courses. The committee report will go to Senate next week. The other ad hoc is a Senate committee charged to investigate and recommend equitable and flexible methods of compensating faculty for summer teaching, particularly for high or low enrolling courses. As you know, funding enough faculty to meet the demand for summer classes has been difficult. Like the internet incentive committee, this group contains both faculty and administrators. They plan to have a recommendation by January. I mention these committees because they are examples of the type of focused and effective shared governance that characterizes much of the work on the Springfield campus. Two other items deserve a mention since, from a faculty governance perspective, we may experience growing pains in the future. One comes out of the greater potential to offer professional doctorates. This is an area where we are well positioned to make significant contributions in the long run. The first proposal for a program under the new legislative guidelines is working its way through the governance process now, others will surely follow. Faculty Senate approved this proposal, from the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, on November 8th. The proposal is currently under challenge by a faculty member. The issue has more to do with a general concern that we need to reexamine our guidelines and processes for developing and approving doctoral programs and less about specific concerns with the DSS proposal. The challenge will be resolved by the time you meet. Regardless of the outcome it illustrates faculty commitment to ensuring that any program we approve has been thoroughly vetted and is as strong as possible.

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The other area where growth is causing strain is in program assessment. This is an area that has grown increasingly important in higher education in general. We, like our colleagues in other institutions, are spending increasing amounts of time conducting thorough and regular reviews of how our courses fit together to create a coherent general education program, or major, or minor

or certificate. The process has significant value but we are finding our current system of review is overwhelming some of our committees. Senate is looking for more effective ways to organize and carry out the process.