

***Minutes of the October Session
of the Faculty Senate
Missouri State University***

The Faculty Senate held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2007, in Plaster Student Union, Room 313. Chair Tom Kane called the session to order at 3:31 p.m. Dr. Eric Shade served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Kishor Shah for Xingping Sun, MTH; and Richard Johnson for Hong Zhang, CIS.

Absences: Ann Branstetter, CGEIP chair; Andrew Cline, MJF; Michael Craig, BMS; Gay Ellis, Non-Tenure Track Instructor representative; Dennis Hickey, DSS; Orlando Hodges, SGA; Arden Miller, Academic Relations Committee chair; Dale Moore, Staff Senate representative; Rich Moore, MIL; Jenifer Roberts, FID; Carol Shoptaugh, PSY; Scott Wallentine, PTE; Kyle Winward, Faculty Concerns Committee chair; Tom Wyrick, Budget & Priorities Committee chair; and Scott Zimmerman, Assistant Professor representative.

Guests: Chris Craig, Provost's Office; Edward DeLong, Meyer Library; Juan Meraz, COBA; Wes Pratt, Diversity Outreach; Mark Given, REL; and Paula Kemp, MTH.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 13 Senate session were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Both the President and Provost will attend the November 8 Faculty Senate meeting to give a brief update about priorities and field questions from Senators.
2. House Bill 389, containing provisions for funding universities via MOHELA, also contains language requiring 'where feasible' the listing of faculty credentials on line and the public posting of student evaluations. The Executive Committee forwarded the Senate's and SGA's prior agreement for publicly posting teaching evaluations to the Provost's Office for consideration of how Missouri State would comply with this provision. Subsequent responses to Senator Buckner's questions revealed that recommendations included that the evaluations would be conducted on-line, would not be used in personnel evaluation or promotion decisions, and that the Provost's Office would send an e-mail requesting that students access the on-line evaluation instrument. Currently, the SGA is responsible for publicizing the site.
3. **New Tenure & Promotion issues** - Faculty with exceptional credentials can apply for early tenure and promotion in the 4th or 5th years. Faculty should be aware that a formal denial for tenure means that the faculty member's contract is terminated with the university; however, faculty members may withdraw their application during the process.

Senior Instructor rank - The *Faculty Handbook* specifies that Instructors who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and service at Missouri State University for at least five years may be

appointed as Senior Instructors. Getting procedures and criteria in place for eligible faculty is important, as the deadline for application is January 9.

Chris Craig followed the announcement by informing the Senate that the details outlining promotion from Instructor to Senior Instructor were still being developed in the Provost's Office, including the amount of salary increase attached to the promotion.

DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Wes Pratt, Diversity Outreach Coordinator, and Juan Meraz, Provost Fellow for Diversity, both addressed the Senate concerning current University diversity initiatives. Mr. Pratt commented that he is seeing much progress in enhancing and improving diversity at Missouri State and in Springfield. According to Mr. Meraz, the Missouri State diversity initiative is helping to bring in nationally recognized motivational/diversity speakers to provide diversity presentations to high school students in outreach areas, which should provide encouragement for them to think of education beyond the high school level.

ADDRESS ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Dr. Cindy Pemberton, Acting Associate Provost for Student Success, was unable to attend today's Senate meeting and will instead present to the Senate in its December meeting.

ACTION ON CURRICULAR PROPOSALS

New accelerated master's degree option for the Master of Science in Project Management - moved for approval by Senator Pearl; motion seconded by Senator Maunder; discussed by Senator McCrary. Senator Bourhis, a member of the Budget & Priorities Committee, reported that the committee had reviewed the new accelerated master's degree option and recommended it for consideration of the Senate. After discussion, the above motion passed by voice vote. It will go forward as **Senate Action 2-07/08**.

Program change in Master of Physical Therapy - moved for approval by Senator Michalczyk-Lillich; motion seconded by Senator Hurst. Senator Bourhis reported the Budget & Priorities Committee had reviewed the above program change and recommended it for consideration of the Senate. Since a departmental representative from Physical Therapy was not present to answer questions, it was decided to move this agenda item to the bottom of the agenda.

REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE

Chair Kane reminded Senate members that the Rules Committee changes being presented will be discussed today but not voted on until the November Senate meeting. In November, a ballot will be distributed to Senate members for casting their vote *without discussion*. Rules Committee Chair Julie Masterson presented the three proposed changes from the committee (see Attachment 3 to the Senate agenda: (1) the word "lecturer" should be changed to "non-tenure track instructor" every place where it occurs in the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty*; (2) the term of appointment to the Budget & Priorities Committee should be extended from two to three years and specification of when membership is elected reworded; and (3) in the description for the Budget & Priorities Committee, the reference to the University's Process Improvement Committee should be deleted (committee no longer exists).

REPORT FROM PROVOST'S COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION AND TENURE CONCERNING DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR DOCUMENT

Dr. Julie Masterson, a member of the Provost's Committee on Promotion and Tenure, gave an overview of the Distinguished Professor Document (see Attachment 4 to the Senate agenda), briefly explained committee rationale, and answered questions from Senate members. It was announced by Chair Kane that Faculty Senate members may bring forward amendments to the document at the November Senate session for debate before the Senate votes for approval of the document.

Some concerns expressed by Senate members were that the document criteria for the rank does not allow nationally known outside professors to be hired at Missouri State as a Distinguished Professor (must have been at Missouri State for at least three years), that it is lopsided in favor of research (argued this was consistent with land grant institutions but not for Missouri State and its reputation for strong teaching). Also of concern, the document sets no maximum number of positions (rank could become inflated), and it does not consider that reassigned time might be more desirable than a monetary reward.

MASTER OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM CHANGE

Senator Kaufman moved to postpone the Physical Therapy program change proposal until the November Senate session (seconded by Senator Buckner); motion passed by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS - There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kane adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m. The next Faculty Senate session is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in PSU 313.

Rebecca Woodard
Secretary of the Faculty

Senate Action 2-07/08

Adopted by Senate on October 11, 2007

Right of Challenge Expires November 7, 2007

***New Accelerated Masters Degree Option for the
Master of Science in Project Management***

A complete copy of the above curricular proposal can be viewed in the Faculty Senate office.