

***Minutes of the February Session
of the Faculty Senate
Southwest Missouri State University***

The Faculty Senate held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2005, in Plaster Student Union 313. Chair Lois Shufeldt called the session to order at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Ralph Smith served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Bob Miller for Holly Baggett, HST; Reed Olsen for Terrel Gallaway, ECO; Roger Tipling for Linda Garrison-Kane, STE; Jason Jolley for Judith Martin, MCL; Edward DeLong for Ken Rutherford, Assistant Professor rank representative; Tom Kane for Michelle Visio, PSY; Barbara S. Robinson for Scott Wallentine, PTE; Weston Walker for Jon Wiggins, AGR; and Mark Richter for James Zimmerman, CHM.

Absences: Paul Blisard, COU; Margaret Buckner, S&A; Stephen Jones, Faculty Concerns Chair; Laszlo Kovacs, FRS; Cindy MacGregor, Graduate Council representative; Janet Nazeri, PEC Chair; Pauline Nugent, Associate Professor rank representative; Mike Reed, P&A; and Rod Williams, MIL.

Guests: Jeanne Cook, PTE; Kishor Shah, MTH; Linda Johnson, Records & Registration; Carey Adams, Communication; Kelly McNeilis, COAL; Kathy Pulley, Academic Affairs; Skip Phelps, Academic Affairs; Bruno Schmidt, Academic Affairs; Loretta Knutson, PTE; Helen Reid, CHHS; Cindy Pemberton, CHHS; Frank Einhellig, Graduate College; Kelli Wolf, student governor; and Robert Jones, PSY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December Senate session were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chair Shufeldt announced that Mr. Edward DeLong would act as Secretary of the Faculty during the first part of the meeting in Dr. Ridinger's absence. He will also be substituting as Assistant Professor rank representative while Dr. Rutherford is out of the country.
2. Chair Shufeldt made reference to the passage of the name change bill in the Missouri Senate this past week and said it was hoped that Southwest Missouri State University would have a new name before Founders Day (March 17).
3. The Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS) held its spring conference in Jefferson City on February 7 and 8. In addition to Chair Shufeldt, Drs. Paula Kemp, Art Spisak, and John Harms attended the conference. They also had a chance to visit with legislators to urge greater support for higher education. All 13 four-year institutions were represented at the conference this year. A resolution was circulated at the MAFS conference (copies distributed to Senate members) by Dr. John Harms, who serves as both the State and SMSU AAUP president. Art Spisak pointed out that the resolution was

asking for the legislature to “develop an adequate and equitable funding formula that is tied to a consistent and reliable revenue source.” Chair Shufeldt said she and Art Spisak, with the Senate’s input, will be submitting a revised resolution to MAFS.

4. In the March Senate meeting, the Senate Nominating Committee will be bringing forward a slate of nominees for the 2005/06 Chairperson-elect and Secretary of the Faculty. Chair Shufeldt asked senators to be thinking of faculty they might wish to nominate from the floor as well. Candidate forums will be held in April.
5. The idea to poll faculty concerning the three presidential candidates had been brought up earlier. At that time, the Senate was working on developing a new webpage, which we hoped would be in place before the new year. However, the webpage has not been completed as yet, so the Faculty Senate has no way of electronically polling faculty that would accommodate anonymous voting. The decision is now in the hands of the Board of Governors, and there is no vehicle for further faculty input.
6. The Senate action on the provost model has gone through the challenge period. President Keiser voted “no,” and VPAA Schmidt did not mark either “approved” or “disapproved.” Chair Shufeldt said she believes all three finalists for president are in favor of a provost model. She believes we have some assurance this is going to come to pass in the near future.
7. Chair-elect Spisak gave an update on the plus-minus grading, which has turned out to be a confusing issue. When he started his investigation, he began with the assumption that plus-minus grading had been approved by administration. President Keiser did approve the Senate action in principle but with comments. At this point, it has not been approved. It is hoped the new software system the university is considering may have the capability to implement it. Before proceeding, the Board of Governors must approve the action.
8. Dr. Kishor Shah informed Senate members that the UMDIG discussion forum is online. For those who have not used Blackboard, go to <http://blackboard.smsu.edu/>, then use your normal user-id. To obtain a password for the first time, click on “Forgot your password?” The following discussion forums have already been set up inside UMDIG: (1) The Three Presidential Finalists, (2) Various Topics, (3) Suggestions to Improve Our University, (4) Teaching, (5) Research, and (6) Service.

REPORT ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS

Dr. Jim Giglio, a member of the Presidential Search Committee, reported on the presidential search process. He was proud of the fact that SMS had an open search. Dr. Giglio said each of the presidential candidates was evaluated against the 10 attributes the committee had previously listed. The Board will announce its choice at its March meeting. He and several other members of the search committee have had an opportunity to make known to the Board of Governors which of the candidates they feel is best suited for the job of president.

Student Governor Kelli Wolf added that the Board will start negotiations with the candidate and might have a selection even before the March Board meeting.

ACTION ON CURRICULAR PROPOSALS

Dr. John Hoftyzer, chair of the Faculty Senate's Budget and Priorities Committee, said his committee endorses the first four programs listed under Item D on the Senate agenda as no major costs were involved.

Senator Bouhris moved for approval of the first three programs under Item D as a package (seconded by Ms. Kyle): **B.S. in Socio-Political Communication (Comprehensive), B.S. in Public Relations (Non-Comprehensive), and deletion of the B.S. in Communication (Comprehensive)/Public Relations and Socio-Political Communication options.** All three were approved by voice vote. They will go forward as **Senate Actions 15-04/05 through 17-04/05.**

Senator Moll moved for approval of the **accelerated masters in Biology** (seconded by Senator Kemp). After discussion, the motion was approved by voice vote (one abstention). It will go forward as **Senate Action 18-04/05.**

Dr. Robinson (substituting for Senator Wallentine) moved for approval of the Doctor of Physical Therapy. Her motion was seconded by Senator Ward. Dr. Hoftyzer told Senate members the Budget and Priorities Committee endorses the Doctor of Physical Therapy program with the proviso for a higher course fee, the differential to be determined by the administration. After considerable discussion, Dr. Reed Olsen moved to table the proposal until differential fees were set, but the motion died for lack of a second. The motion was then approved by voice vote. It will go forward as **Senate Action 19-04/05.**

AMENDMENT TO GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Senator Bob Miller moved and Senator Kemp seconded a motion to approve an amendment to the General Education Program made necessary by the Mathematics Department's renumbering of MTH 145 to MTH 130. A footnote in the General Education Program document under Criteria and Constraints, B. Constraints, 3. Mathematics section, will be changed from "*Currently MTH 135, 138, or 145" to "*Currently MTH 130, 135, or 138." In the catalog, the general education Mathematics requirement will be modified to read, "Mathematics: A MTH course numbered 130 or higher.....3-5." By voice vote, the motion was approved. It will go forward as **Senate Action 20-04/05.**

REPORT ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS MINOR

Chris Curtis, SGA president, and Kelli Wolf, student governor, distributed a resolution approved by the SGA resolving "that the Student Government Association recommend that all faculty teaching a general education course review their syllabus and look for ways to emphasize public affairs through their reading materials, lectures, and course work," and further resolving "that if this is done all students completing the SMS general education program receives a minor in public affairs." They referred to a minor at Drury University in global studies. Every Drury student who graduates receives the minor. Recognizing they needed help in changing curriculum, they came to the Senate meeting asking for the faculty's help.

Chair Shufeldt suggested that the issue be given as a charge to the Academic Relations Committee. She said one concern would be the articulation agreements SMS has with other colleges and universities, and she advised caution. Art Spisak suggested the Academic Relations Committee could perhaps have a subcommittee look into this, with Kim Bell as an *ex officio* member. Senator Carol Miller said she did not support having another 12 hours in general education and that a stand-alone minor would be more palatable. She felt the students were really looking at some sort of certificate instead of a minor.

REPORT FROM ACADEMIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Reed Olsen, chair of the Academic Relations Committee, moved for approval of a Senate resolution resolving “that at the present time the Faculty Senate does not support the creation of an American Humanics program at Southwest Missouri State University.” His motion was seconded by Senator Byrd. After discussion, the motion was approved by voice vote. It will go forward as **Senate Resolution 7-04/05**.

Dr. Olsen moved for approval of a Senate action asking “that a permanent committee of Faculty Personnel Management be jointly formed by Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate Executive committee to make recommendations to the Vice President of Academic Affairs regarding the approval of individual tenure-track faculty lines within departments and colleges, the approval of instructor and lecturer lines within departments and colleges, the approval of per course instructor lines within departments and colleges, and setting appropriate university targets for the makeup of the university faculty” (Attachment 7 to February Senate agenda). His motion was seconded by Senator Tipling.

VPAA Schmidt said he was opposed to the Senate action the way it was written. He believes that deans will have considerable insights and that faculty members will not have the same views. He said he would be supportive of having a committee consisting of deans and faculty members. He was not in favor of a vote that would have to be justified in writing every time a decision is made. Senator Reed withdrew his motion until the committee could discuss this further with VPAA Schmidt. He will bring it back in a revised form at the Senate’s next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Wyrick distributed two Senate actions to be discussed under “New Business.” To consider new items not distributed with the agenda, an approving two-thirds vote of the Senate’s voting membership is required, and upon a show of hands, the required two-thirds vote failed. Senator Wyrick’s Senate actions will be placed on the March Senate agenda.

Senator DeLong asked if the Rules Committee membership had been appointed; Chair Shufeldt said it had.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Watson moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting will be on Thursday, March 10, in Plaster Student Union 313.

Rhonda R. Ridinger
Secretary of the Faculty

Senate Action 15-04/05

Adopted by Senate on February 17, 2005

Right of Challenge Expires March 16, 2005

B.S. in Socio-Political Communication (Comprehensive)

See 2004/05 curricular proposals in the Senate office.

Senate Action 16-04/05

Adopted by Senate on February 17, 2005

Right of Challenge Expires March 16, 2005

B.S. in Public Relations (Non-Comprehensive)

See 2004/05 curricular proposals in the Senate office.

Senate Action 17-04/05

Adopted by Senate on February 17, 2005

Right of Challenge Expires March 16, 2005

***Deletion of B.S. in Communication (Comprehensive)/Public
Relations and Socio-Political Communication Options***

See 2004/05 curricular proposals in the Senate office.

Senate Action 18-04/05

Adopted by Senate on February 17, 2005

Right of Challenge Expires March 16, 2005

Accelerated Masters in Biology

See 2004/05 curricular proposals in the Senate office.

Senate Action 19-04/05

Adopted by Senate on February 17, 2005

Right of Challenge Expires March 16, 2005

Doctor of Physical Therapy

See 2004/05 curricular proposals in the Senate office.

Right of Challenge Expires March 16, 2005

Amendment to General Education Program

Proposal to Change the General Education Requirement to Accommodate Renumbering MTH 145:

Background: MTH 145 was created in the mid-90s to provide a general education Mathematics class for students whose programs did not require College Algebra. It is now also a recommended general education class for students in Elementary, Middle School, and Special Education programs.

Over the years, students have read the general education requirements (page 81 in the 2004-05 catalog), which read, “Mathematics: A MTH course numbered 135 or higher... ..3-5.” Since course difficulty generally becomes greater as course numbers get larger, some students have incorrectly believed this is the case with the MTH 135-138-145 sequence.

In order to minimize instances of this error, the Mathematics Department proposed that the number of MTH 145 be changed to MTH 130. The course title, periodicity, description, etc., will remain the same as in the current catalog. This proposal was approved in January.

Proposal: with this change of number, the **Aim of General Education** document, **Section III GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: CRITERIA AND CONSTRAINTS**, will have a footnote changed in B.3. Constraints, from “*Currently MTH 135, 138, or 145” to “*Currently MTH 130, 135, or 138.”

In the catalog, the general education Mathematics requirement will be modified to read, “Mathematics: A MTH course numbered 130 or higher... ..3-5.”

Senate Resolution on American Humanics Program

Whereas, The proposed American Humanics program does not seem to support the University's mission in terms of academic rigor with, more specifically, no evidence that the program provides "an in-depth mastery of at least one academic discipline; and

Whereas, Although external funding of the program is planned for the future, there is no assurance that the funding will materialize; and

Whereas, Under current conditions no department has been willing to commit to host the program; and

Whereas, No director for the program has been identified; and

Whereas, The compulsory attendance by students of at least one annual American Humanics Management Institute meeting may place an undue financial burden on the students without any evidence of academic and/or professional benefits; therefore

Be it resolved, That at the present time the Faculty Senate does not support the creation of an American Humanics program at Southwest Missouri State University.