

## Minutes of the February Session of the Faculty Senate

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The Faculty Senate held its February session on Thursday, February 14, 2013, in PSU 313. Chair Christopher Herr called the session to order at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Eric Shade served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Maria Kenneally for Donna Gloe, NR; Mary Ann Jennings for Joan McClennen, SW; and Michael R. Hammond for George Schmelzle, AC.

Absences: Sandra Bailey, FI; John Bourhis, CM; Deanne Camp, Grad Chair; Sam Dyer, ARC Chair; James Hackney, PT; Saibal Mitra, PA; Paige Oxendine, SGA Rep; Dave Romano, PS; Patti Salinas, CR; and John Satzinger, CI.

Guests: Richard Biagioni, FHRC; Paige Jenkins, BOG; Crystal Gale, FYC; John Catau, Office of the Provost; Chris Craig, Office of the Provost; Mike Wood, First Year Programs; and Rob Hornberger, Registrar.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Ridinger moved to amend the January 2013 minutes by adding the following under the report from SGA:

Ms. Donnellan indicated that (1) individual faculty participation in any database would be voluntary, (2) it was understood that a class syllabus in the repository during the early registration period may not be the syllabus eventually used for the class. The major items in each syllabus that were of interest to students were plus/minus grading, teaching style, and course structure. The Senate discussed and offered their feedback. There was no specific proposal or vote.

**The motion passed.**

**The minutes were approved as amended.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Josh Smith, CGEIP Chair, gave an update from the committee and showed the Senate the [Revised General Education](#) webpage. The day before the meetings, the agendas will be posted on the webpage. So far, 108 proposals have been submitted and the committee has reviewed 37 curricular proposals. The last meeting before the committee presents the whole package will be March 27. Model applications have been posted. The committee has also added an FAQ page.

### REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE

Cynthia MacGregor, Chair, presented the report. She reviewed two charges with the Senate, which will be voted on next month, and answered questions.

#### Charge Six

Clarify the role of the Chair Elect of the Senate on standing committees and whether it would be useful to have a member of the FSEC serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of PEC.

**Rationale:** *Ex officio* is not synonymous with non-voting, the role should be made clear. Also, the Chair Elect serves *ex officio* on other standing senate committees, but not explicitly the PEC. Scheduling conflicts would prevent the Chair-Elect from participating in all of the major committees. However, serving on these committees helps to keep the FSEC informed about the committees and helps the chair elect become more familiar with people, issues, and structure related to these committees.

#### Charge One

Consider changes to incorporate the Library and new School of Agriculture into the bylaws. For example:

- How are they represented in the Senate and on committees?
- How do they begin their curricular process?
- How is a school defined?

Rationale for charge: The School of Agriculture is new and structurally different from other academic units. The Library is a cost center but not a college.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: REPORT FROM FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISION COMMITTEE**

Rich Biagioni, Chair, presented the Principles II: Revisions of Annual Review Sections in the Faculty Handbook. Senator Weaver moved to adopt the report. The Senate discussed each section of the document.

Senator Weaver moved to strike a sentence in the last bullet under point 4:

- We note that faculty may apply for equity adjustments even in years where there has been no merit pay, ~~and this can be a way of addressing major achievements during “lean” years.~~

**The motion passed.**

Senate Michalczyk moved to make the following revision under point 6.

6. When a committee that hears appeals on annual reviews (merit ratings) is considering appeals from instructors, clinical faculty, or research faculty (i.e., non-tenure track faculty), the committee ~~should~~ **must** include representation from a faculty member of equivalent status (e.g., if there is an appeal from an instructor, the appeals committee should include a instructor).

**The motion passed.**

The Principles II document was adopted as amended.

## **ELECTIONS FOR UNIVERSITY HEARING COMMITTEE**

The Senate voted by secret ballot on nominees submitted by College Councils for the **University Hearing Committee** for a three-year term, ending in 2016. The following six people were elected. The remaining two positions will be appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Walt Nelson, Sarah Nixon, Tom Kane, Dennis Hickey, Paul Rollinson, and Lloyd Smith.

## **REPORT FROM FIRST YEAR PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Dr. James Moyer presented the report. The committee would like to recruit more faculty to teach GEP 101. Application forms were made available. Dr. Moyer answered questions from the Senate.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION ON DIGITAL LITERACY**

Senator Liu moved the Resolution to the floor. Dr. Smith answered questions from the Senate.

**Passed.**

**SR 8-12/13**

Chair Herr invited Senators to contact him if they are interested in being on the committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Herr adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Kathy Gibson  
Secretary of the Faculty

**Senate Resolution on Digital Literacy**

**Whereas**, digital literacy (broadly defined herein to mean the abilities to (a) produce, rather than merely consume, content using appropriate software, and (b) interact safely, ethically, and effectively within virtual communities) is increasingly important for success both in academia and in the information-based economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;

**Whereas**, digital literacy is not a requirement for high-school graduation in the state of Missouri;

**Whereas**, digital literacy is not a requirement for admission to MSU;

**Whereas**, digital literacy is not a requirement within the new MSU general education structure, and moreover, the structure effectively precludes a broad-based digital literacy course in the general education program;

**Whereas**, the current CIS/CSC 101 general education course, upon which some programs and courses rely, will cease to exist;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee form a committee with broad representation, including at least one SGA representative, to determine whether some level of digital literacy should be expected of all MSU students. If the committee determines that some expectations are appropriate, it shall clearly define both the expectations and how they may be demonstrated. (One possibility is to define a graduation requirement in digital literacy that may be met by suitable coursework, by the completion of certain majors or minors, or by passing a waiver exam.) The committee shall make a report to the Senate, including any recommendations for action, no later than the December 2013 session.