

Faculty Senate Report to Missouri State University Board of Governors - October 28, 2022

Since my last report to the Board (i.e., the addendum to the May 19, 2022, report), the Faculty Senate has met only one time. The following report provides a summary of that September 2022 Faculty Senate session. Prior to the Board's October 28 meeting, the Faculty Senate will have met for a second time (October 20, 2022). The following report also provides a brief overview of the agenda items for this second meeting. Finally, the following report identifies some other activities I have started this year on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

SEPTEMBER 2022 FACULTY SENATE SESSION

The first meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year was on Thursday, September 8. In addition to completing normal introductory activities, the Senate conducted the following business.

SENATE DISCUSSION WITH INTERIM PROVOST JOHN JASINSKI AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ZORA MULLIGAN

I have invited Interim Provost Jasinski and Executive Vice President Mulligan to attend and meet with the faculty at each Faculty Senate monthly meeting during my term as Chair this academic year. My goal with this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for faculty and administration to have open discussions about the work being conducted by the steering committees lead by Dr. Jasinski and EVP Mulligan. Both individuals have agreed to attend the monthly Senate meetings and speak with the faculty as much as possible this academic year.

ACADEMIC PERSONNEL REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT

The purpose of the Academic Personnel Review Commission (APRC) is to serve as a neutral party and facilitate the informal resolution of grievances filed by or against faculty. The Chair of the APRC, Dr. Andrew Homburg, reported the commission was not currently reviewing any grievances, nor did it have any previous grievances to report to the Faculty Senate.

2021-2022 SENATE ACTION SUMMARY REPORT

For the 2021-2022 academic year, the Faculty Senate approved 47 Senate Actions (most of which were curricular proposals), 4 Senate Resolutions, and 3 Internal Senate Actions. None of the approved Faculty Senate Actions were declined.

CURRICULAR PROPOSALS

The Faculty Senate discussed and approved a new program: Esports Studies Undergraduate Certificate. This curricular proposal was postponed to the September 2022 session from the previous May 2022 session.

OCTOBER 2022 FACULTY SENATE SESSION

The second meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year will have occurred on Thursday, October 20. This session will include another presentation and discussion between the senators, Interim Provost Jasinski, and Executive Vice President Mulligan. Dr. L Horton III and Dr. Algerian Hart will also give a short presentation to the Senate about the Faculty Diversity Composition Initiative. Finally, the agenda for the October 20 meeting includes 10 curricular proposals.

OTHER FACULTY SENATE ACTIVITIES INITIATED THIS FALL

The various standing committees and councils of the Faculty Senate are formed and have begun their assigned work. As Chair, I have also formed 2 ad hoc committees of the Faculty Senate for this academic year. Both ad hoc committees have started their work, and I have briefly described their charges below.

FACULTY USE OF BLACKBOARD (OR OTHER APPROVED LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

The first ad hoc committee follows up on a Student Government Association resolution passed last academic year. This resolution requested faculty minimally use Blackboard to post course grades, course syllabi, and class cancelations. The 2021-2022 Faculty Senate recommended the best approach for this work would be to create a small ad hoc committee focused on this task.

I have charged this committee to discuss the issue and propose language, if appropriate, to the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee. Any language proposed by the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee would then be presented to the Faculty Senate for continued discussion, amendments, and possible approval.

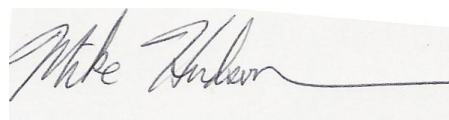
Membership for this committee includes myself, Dr. Christopher Herr (Past Chair of the Faculty Senate), Dr. Cynthia MacGregor (Chair of the Committee on Policy Review and Faculty Senate Parliamentarian), and Katherine Wissel (Director of Academic Affairs for the Student Government Association).

REDESIGNING OF THE FACULTY SENATE ACADEMIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the second ad hoc committee is to better align Faculty Senate work on curricular proposals with the work conducted by the Office of the Registrar. A standing committee of the Faculty Senate is the Committee on Academic Relations. The purpose of this committee appears to overlap more with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. In addition, there is no formal committee of the Faculty Senate directly connected to the Office of the Registrar when it pertains to the daily work of managing curricular proposals.

I have charged this ad hoc committee to review the purpose of the Committee on Academic Relations and propose how to best align the Faculty Senate with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. Depending on the outcome of this work, the ad hoc committee is also charged to repurpose the Committee on Academic Relations, or propose a new committee, that formally aligns the curricular proposal work of the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Registrar.

Membership for this committee includes Dr. Lanya Lamouria (past Secretary of the Faculty and ad hoc committee Chair), Dr. Melinda Novik (current Secretary of the Faculty), Katrina Chavez (Associate Registrar), Nancy Gordon (Director, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning), and Mike Foster (Senator for the Professor Rank).



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