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Missouri State University Faculty Senate Report to MSU Board of Governors October 19th, 2018 Tom Dicke, Chair, Faculty Senate 2018-2019; Professor of History

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As this is my first report to the board this academic year I believe it is appropriate to begin with a brief summary of faculty activities in the past year. 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. Although the number of ranked faculty has grown slightly since 2010, due to increased enrollment the ratio of ranked faculty per student has worsened - from 31 students per ranked faculty in 2010 to 35 students per ranked faculty in 2017. Ranked faculty provide instruction in 100 majors, 125 minors and a rapidly growing number of certificates. In research, MSU faculty produced 401 publications and other creative activities in 2017. The majority of these were journal articles, although this number also includes books, artistic exhibits, and performance activities. It is difficult to summarize our research and creative activities since our contributions are as varied in this area as they are in our teaching. They are also just as central to the core mission of the university. Knowledge is one of the very few things that is not consumed when it is used and expansion of the store of human knowledge is the most fundamental mission of any comprehensive university. A few examples of how Missouri State faculty are contributing to advancing our understanding of the world include original research into topics as varied as Dr. Billie Follensbee's research into Mesoamerican art or Dr. Susan Robinson's experiments on how to reduce falls in older Americans. Faculty contributions in service include service to the university, to our disciplines, and to the larger community. The everyday work of shared governance takes considerable time and effort to do well. Most of our efforts in this area are concentrated in keeping our curriculum up to date. Last year, for example, 657 curricular changes were processed. Each of these originated with a faculty member and made it through multiple levels of faculty review before moving on for administrative approval. Changes to the curriculum ranged from a new graduate level course on the history of plagues and pandemics to an entirely new undergraduate program in ranch management. At the time this was written Faculty Senate had only had one meeting for the academic year. At that meeting the Senate reviewed and approved a new program in IT infrastructure, an interdisciplinary program (Chemistry, Biology, and Biomedical Sciences) in Pharmaceutical Science, and 9 certificates in subjects ranging between petroleum geology and music performance. In addition to our commitment to teaching, research, and service, the most important concerns among faculty this year will likely revolve around compensation. As you are well aware budgets during the past few years have shrunk and while the administration has done an admirable job containing the damage under exceptionally difficult circumstances, faculty are concerned that we are falling behind as increases in compensation lag behind increases in the cost of living. Page 104 of 207 - Board of Governors' Meeting 10/19/2018 _____