

Minutes of the December Session of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate held the December session on Thursday, December 7, 2023, in PSU 313. Chair Beth Walker called the session to order at 3:30 p.m. Mike Hudson served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Laszlo Kovacs for Jay McEntee, Biology.

Absences: Judith Martinez, Asst. Prof. Rep; Fatih Benzer, Art & Design; Holly Holladay, Media, Journalism & Film; Jenifer Roberts, Merchandising & Fashion design; M. Hassan Raza, Childhood Education & Family Studies; Brooke Whisenhunt, Psychology; Susan Dollar, School of Social Work; Richard Belshoff, Mathematics; and Wenping Qiu, Environmental Plant Science & Natural Resources.

Guests: Jason DeBode, MGT/Graduate Council; Tom Dicke, HST/Honorary Degrees; Katrina Chavez, Registrar; Angela Young, Registrar; Kanu Priya, Mgmt; Stacy Johnson, Social Work; Julia Hocraes, Legal; Rachel Dockery, Legal; Jeff Mitchell, LA & C; and Admar Alanf, Computer Science.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November minutes were approved as posted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. If necessary, a carry-over meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, at 3:30 p.m. (location TBD).
2. Nominations are now being received for the 2024 Eric Shade Memorial Faculty Governance Award. More information can be found on the Faculty Senate website. Email Faculty Senate Chair Beth Walker or Faculty Senate with nominations by January 27th.
3. The Faculty Concerns Survey has been sent out. Chair Walker reminded the Senate that the survey is confidential. If there are concerns, feel free to contact Chair Walker.
4. Nine-month faculty do not have a start date and an end date. Chair Walker will be researching this further.
5. The next Faculty Senate session will be January 18.

REPORT FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CURRICULAR MATTERS

Chair Walker, committee member, presented the report.

REPORT ON STAFF SATISFACTION SURVEY

Staff Senate Chair, Laura Derrick, presented the report.

REPORT ON BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Brad Kielhofner, P.E. University Engineer and Director Facilities Management, reported on the organization, procedures, and staffing of Facilities Management. Requests can be made online on the Facilities Management website or contact (417)836-8400. Mr. Kielhofner answered questions from the Senate.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

Committee Chair, Tom Dicke, presented the report and read the Senate Action.

The Action passed unanimously.

SA 22-23/24

NEW BUSINESS

Service Dog Discussion. (This discussion had to be moved up in the agenda.)

The issues will be further discussed in the Committee on Policy Review.

SENATE ACTION ON OMBUDSPERSON

Senator Ximena Uribe-Zarain read the Action and moved it to the floor.

Senator Matt Calihman made a motion to revise the following paragraph:

Be it further resolved that we urge the university administration to explore alternative, **non-administrator** candidates who can serve as an Ombudsperson with greater impartiality and dedication to resolving conflicts fairly.

Discussion. The motion to amend passed.

Senator Elizabeth Williamson made a motion for a second amendment to the paragraph:

Be it further resolved that we urge the university administration to explore alternative, **non-administrator** candidates, **with approval of Faculty Senate**, who can serve as an Ombudsperson with greater impartiality and dedication to resolving conflicts fairly.

Discussion. The motion for a second amendment passed.

Senator Mike Foster made a motion to strike the final **Be it further resolved**.

Discussion. The motion to strike the last paragraph passed.

Senator Abby Templer Rodrigues made a motion to reinstate the language from the original last paragraph, as the last “whereas” clause.

Senator Tara Boehne made a motion to postpone this discussion until January.

The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Melinda Novik

Secretary of the Faculty

Faculty Senate Chair Must Be Notified of Intent to Challenge By: December 15, 2023
Right of Challenge Expires January 31, 2024

**Senate Action Conferring Honorary Baccalaureate Degree upon
David Trottier**

WHEREAS, the honorary baccalaureate is awarded to “recognize the extraordinary achievements of distinguished citizens” especially those with “a strong tie to this community, state, or region”; and

WHEREAS, David Trottier has, as both a private individual and as President of Smitty’s supermarkets, a decades long record of generous support for a variety of local institutions working to improve the quality of life in Springfield and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, David Trottier has in particular been a strong supporter of local education from Kindergarten through college; and

WHEREAS, David Trottier has over the years, shown a personal commitment to community engagement by acting as a valued mentor to colleagues and employees; and

WHEREAS, the demands of business which significantly increased his ability to help support his contributions to improving life in Springfield and the surrounding area also prevented him from completing a baccalaureate degree;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Missouri State University, meeting on this seventh day of December, 2023, recommend to the university’s Board of Governors that the honorary baccalaureate degree be conferred upon David Trottier at the Commencement ceremony in May 2024 in recognition of his long record of civic support and engagement.