

**Faculty Senate April 2023 Chair-Elect Candidate Statement
Scott Zimmerman, Ph.D., Biomedical Science Department**

I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Chair of the Faculty Senate. I have some experience in university leadership, having served as Graduate Council Chair during the 2017-'18 academic year and on Faculty Senate two times previous to my current term. In addition, I have served as Chair of the MCHHS College Council twice and on several university committees.

None of us know for certain what the future will bring, especially during these times of transition. Things will certainly be clearer in the next few weeks but then more change is likely as we tackle the reorganization around programs, classes, and specific faculty roles. There will be a lot to manage and many details to work through. I can only promise to do all I can to work collaboratively with my faculty colleagues to ensure that our voice has an important influence on the direction these changes will take us and how they will be implemented. I will rely on data, when possible, to drive decisions while keeping an open mind and open door to include as many people as want to be heard.

There is plenty to feel stressed about beyond our own university reorganization; declining numbers of high school graduates, a challenging economy, and changes in the perception of higher education, to name a few. If I am elected, I will do my best to listen, learn, and provide a strong faculty voice during the interesting times to come.

**Faculty Senate April 2023 Secretary of the Faculty Candidate Statement
Melinda Novik, Professor, Department of Public Health and Sports Medicine**

I am honored to again be considered for the position of Secretary of the Faculty. Since beginning at Missouri State University in 2008, I have been involved in many facets of curriculum. I have served multiple terms on College Council for the College of Health and Human Services then was elected to serve as the CHHS Council Chair. After fulfilling my role on Council as Chair, I served a term on Graduate Council. Most recently, I fulfilled back-to-back terms on Faculty Senate in which many who served with me would recognize my willingness to speak up and be involved during meetings. In total, I have represented my departments, college, and the university for over ten years in some capacity focusing on curriculum. In addition to these responsibilities, I have also served as a Graduate Program Director in which one primary responsibility is curriculum changes. Further, I have reviewed departmental curricular proposals and mentored junior faculty on the curricular process.

I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside the Executive Committee as we move into this new period of the university with the realignment, to learn even more about the curricular process and to serve the Faculty by bringing an interprofessional focus to reviewing curricular proposals. I will ensure that all curricular changes benefit students, programs, and respective professions all while upholding the University's mission and long-term goals. If elected again, I will work towards making the curricular process even more efficient and will work towards making the transition for the next Secretary seamless by setting up a system of checks and balances for proposals. Further, I will assist with the transition to the new curricular action workflow system more efficiently and continue to be a resource for faculty regarding curricular proposals.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Senate Action- Separation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty in the Policy Library

Whereas, the Missouri State University Policy Library contains two types of policies: (1) Governing policies (i.e., G-policies) overseen by the Board of Governors and (2) Operating policies (Op-policies) overseen by the President of Missouri State University; and

Whereas, towards the end of the 2022 fall semester, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee learned the Missouri State University Policy Library included the 2009 version of the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty* as policy G3.01; and

Whereas, policy G1.10 Faculty Constitution Approval Procedure in the Policy Library states, “It is the policy of Missouri State University that a Faculty Constitution be adopted. The Board of Governors shall approve the Constitution and any revisions thereto which shall be submitted for approval by the Faculty Senate”; and

Whereas, Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised describes how a constitution and bylaws of a deliberative body, such as the Faculty Senate, can be viewed as two different documents if the process for amending the constitution is different than the process for amending the bylaws; and

Whereas, the procedures for amending both the 2009 and the 2022 *Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty* do describe different rules for amending the *Constitution* and for amending the *Bylaws*; therefore

Be it resolved, the Faculty Senate, with the assistance of the Missouri State University administration, requests the 2009 *Faculty Constitution* be separated from the 2009 *Bylaws of the Faculty* so the 2009 *Faculty Constitution* remains in the Policy Library as a G-policy and the 2009 *Bylaws of the Faculty* be moved to an Op-policy; and

Be it further resolved, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee works with the Missouri State University administration to propose to the Board of Governors an amended 2009 *Faculty Constitution* that aligns with the proposed *Faculty Constitution* for the 2023-2024 academic year; and

Be it further resolved, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee works with the Missouri State University administration to propose to the President of Missouri State University an amended 2009 *Bylaws of the Faculty* that aligns with the proposed *Bylaws of the Faculty* for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Redesign of the Academic Relations Committee

Members:

- Lanya Lamouria, Past Secretary of the Faculty (Committee Chair)
- Melinda Novik, Secretary of the Faculty
- Katrina Chavez, Associate Registrar-Course and Curriculum Management
- Nancy Gordon, Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
- Mike Foster, Faculty Senate Senator for Professors

Background (prepared by Chair Mike Hudson):

- The Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty list the standing committees and councils for the Faculty Senate. One of these standing committees is the Committee on Academic Relations (ART I SEC 9.B.3.a). Per the Bylaws, the purpose of this committee is that it:
 - Shall review institutional quality of academic standards and instructional methodology.
 - Shall evaluate and promote faculty development programs and procedures.
- The purpose of this committee appears to overlap with the activities of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and both the Chair and Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate are members of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Council. Furthermore, the Academic Relations Committee has been inactive for the past few years.
- The Faculty Senate has the authority to initiate curricular actions; however, the discharge of curricular actions is shared between the Faculty Senate and university administration (e.g., Office of the Registrar). Currently, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty do not include a group with any formal oversight of this work. Instead, it has been managed for the past few years through the informal Curricular Action Workgroup.

Charge to the Committee (prepared by Chair Mike Hudson):

- Review the current purpose of the Faculty Senate Academic Relations Committee. Compare this purpose with the current activities and purpose of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Review the previous and current activities of the Curricular Action Workgroup.
- From these activities, consider and propose recommendations to address the following questions and issues:

- Is the current purpose and structure of the Committee on Academic Relations still needed? If this purpose is no longer appropriate, propose a new working relationship between the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. For this proposal, please consider the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning is not a formal group of the Faculty Senate.
- Propose either a new standing committee (i.e., purpose and membership) of the Faculty Senate, or propose repurposing and restructuring (i.e., new membership) of the Committee on Academic Relations, that formally brings the work of the Curricular Action Workgroup into the Faculty Senate. Please consider that if a proposal is made, and then adopted by the Faculty Senate, the proposal would be referred to the Committee on Rules to be finalized into the Bylaws.

Procedure:

On October 4, 2022, Faculty Senate Chair Mike Hudson created the Ad Hoc Committee on the Redesign of the Academic Relations Committee and distributed the charge. The Ad Hoc Committee met on October 27, 2022; November 10, 2022; December 12, 2022; January 17, 2023; and March 1, 2023. To review the purpose and structure of the Committee on Academic Relations, we examined all Committee reports written since 2003 and spoke to faculty and administrators with knowledge of the Committee. Since the charge asked us to consider the relationship of Academic Relations to the Curricular Action Workgroup and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, Ad Hoc Committee members Katrina Chavez and Nancy Gordon presented on the activities of these bodies.

Findings:

In response to the question, “Is the current purpose and structure of the Committee on Academic Relations still needed?” we found that the current purpose and structure are too broad. Reports filed between 2003 demonstrate that the Committee on Academic Relations generally completed work in response to special charges from the Faculty Senate Chair rather than as part of its regular activities. As noted in “Background,” the Committee has been inactive in recent years. We conclude that the Committee on Academic Relations is no longer needed.

In response to the questions concerning the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL), we found that communication between the FCTL and Faculty Senate is effective but can be further strengthened.

In response to the questions concerning the Curricular Action Workgroup, we found that the informal group has performed the crucial functions of ensuring that the curricular process follows the procedures outlined in the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws and of facilitating communication between Faculty Senate, the Office of the Registrar, and the Office of the Provost. It should become a standing committee.

Our discussion of the Curricular Action Workgroup led to our most important finding: **the curricular process, which is at the heart of the University’s mission and is directly related to student success and retention, requires additional support.** The number of academic programs has dramatically expanded in recent years, and curricular change is only expected to increase with realignment. To implement these changes agilely and efficiently, the University needs to provide additional resources and create new roles to support the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (specifically the position of Secretary of the Faculty), the Office of the Registrar, and the Office of the Provost.

Proposed Senate Actions and Recommendations:

ACTIONS:

First, we ask Faculty Senate to charge the Rules Committee with the deletion of the Committee on Academic Relations.

Second, we ask Faculty Senate to charge the Rules Committee with the creation of a new Faculty Senate “Committee on Curricular Matters.” The Committee’s purpose should encompass the following:

- Continuously reviewing the university’s curricular processes, practices, actions, and systems to ensure they reflect the curricular process outlined in the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Any recommendations and/or resolutions of the Committee shall be directed to the Faculty Senate for appropriate disposition.
- Serving as a vehicle through which Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Registrar may introduce items of concern for discussion and consideration.
- Inviting the submission of items of concern regarding curricular matters from faculty members or administrators for discussion.
- Preparing an annual report to be presented at Faculty Senate and posted to the Faculty Senate website during the fall semester. The report should (1) include data on the number of curricular proposals submitted and approved during the previous academic year, distinguishing between types of proposals; (2) describe any substantial changes made to curricular processes, practices, or systems; (3) explain items of concern that were discussed and/or addressed; and (4) outline the process by which items of concern can be submitted to the committee.

We propose that the membership of the new “Committee on Curricular Matters” should consist of a past Secretary of the Faculty, who would be chair of the Committee on Curricular Matters; the Chair of the Faculty Senate; the Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate; the Secretary of the Faculty; and the Past Chair of the Faculty Senate. The administrative specialist for Faculty Senate, a designee of the Office of the Provost, a designee of the Office of the Registrar, and any other additional representative(s) as designated by the chair would serve as *ex officio* members without vote.

Third, since the work of the Rules Committee will take one year, we ask Faculty Senate to convene an Ad Hoc “Committee on Curricular Matters” (based on the description provided above) for 2023-2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

First, we recommend that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee arrange for the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning to present an annual report to Faculty Senate.

Second, we ask the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to recommend that the Office of the Provost create new roles to support the entirety of the curricular process, from the submission of proposals through implementation and assessment.

Third, we recommend that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee charge the Rules Committee with reviewing the role, responsibilities, and title of the Secretary of the Faculty position. First, Rules should update the description of the role to ensure that it reflects current practice. Next, Rules should evaluate the scope of the Secretary’s responsibilities to determine whether or not the current structure is relevant and efficient. Finally, Rules should revise the title “Secretary of the Faculty” to reflect current inclusive nomenclature.

The Report from the Committee on University Budget & Priorities is in a separate attachment.

Faculty Senate April 2023 Agenda Attachment 6

The report from the Committee on Faculty Concerns will be in a separate attachment.