

LV No. 11
Faculty Senate Minutes
February 24, 2021

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via Zoom. The following Senators were present: Larry Bohannon, Indi Braden, Vera Campbell-Jones, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp, Tammy Davis, Beverly Evans, Erin Fluegge, Susan Fulton, Ruben Gerding, Stephanie Hallam, Joni Hand, Laura Hatcher, Lesly Krome, Ziping Liu, Kim Louie, Elizabeth McFarland, Belinda McMurry, Pam Parry, David Powell, Kristen Sobba, Raju Vanteddu, Haohao Wang, Diane Wood, and David Yaskewich. Provost Godard and Xander Goffinet, Student Government Liaison, were also present. Jocelyn Martin was present as an alternate.

New Business

Senator McFarland introduced *Resolution 21-X – Faculty Senate Bylaws*. She stated that the Governance Committee are updating the bylaws to reflect the process of bill approval to coincide with the Board of Regents'. She discussed the changes the committee made.

Senator McFarland also introduced bill *21-A-X – Preamble*. She stated that this bill is aimed toward the policy and procedures section of the preamble. It has been a while since it's been updated and should be consistent with the Board of Regents' bylaws. The committee has been working on this since the previous year and have rereviewed it this past month to be able to present it to Senate. Senator McFarland, along with Senator Cropp, discussed the changes the committee are suggesting. Both this bill and the resolution will be presented again to the Senate for a final vote at the March 31st meeting.

Reports

Chair Wood announced that the Senate will be hosting a special presentation on March 10th at the Rose Theatre in Grauel. She stated that Sonia Rucker, Vice President of Equity, Access, and Behavioral Health/Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator, will discuss Title IX, sexual assault. The Chair said that last semester there were a lot of concerns regarding this topic, and it is important for our faculty to be informed about this. Faculty need to know the policy and procedures when dealing with sexual assault and how to be a support system for any student that feels they have been sexual assaulted. Sonia will be presenting from 3-4:30 p.m.

The Chair also announced that Dr. Tamara Buck will also be at the March 10th meeting to discuss Meaningful Diversity and Inclusion Practices at the Department Level. She stated that this is another important topic faculty should be aware of and should be putting into action. Dr. Buck will be presenting from 4:30-5 p.m.

Provost Godard reported that we are in process of kicking off the Strategic Action Plan Committee activities; it will start Monday, March 1. He stated that him and Debbie Below, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, are co-chairing the committee. There are representatives from each department, dean representation, and Faculty Senate representatives on the committee who include Laura Hatcher and Stephanie Hallam. He explained that the committee's first step is to develop out things that will be focused on for this

strategic action and grateful for outside individuals who are advising and assisting through this process to help move things along. There is a formal website to pull information and resources from.

Xander Goffinet, Student Government Liaison, reported that Student Government spends most of their time approving funding for events but because of Covid-19 there are not a lot of events happening. So, they have been working to improve Student Government as a whole which include a smoother transition of Senators from year to year.

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Senator Fluegge reported that they have been working on the 5-Year Academic Calendar. She stated the committee has been in touch with Provost Godard and Sandy Hinkle in the Registrar Office to hammer out the dates for the 2024-2025 academic year. They hope to have a bill to present to Senate at the March 31st meeting.

Compensation – Senator Parry reported that the committee has been discussing compensation and proposing a new budget. They are meeting on March 3rd to build a proposal from the feedback they receive by March 16. She stated that she needs a vote from the Senate regarding merit pay raise to include in the budget and suggested a 1% raise. Senator Hatcher moved to approve the 1% base salary increase; Senator McFarland seconded; and it passed with one abstention.

Documents – Senator Bohannon reported that the committee has been working on the Johnson Faculty Center section of the Faculty Handbook. They have been removing outdated language and updating it to reflect the duties and functions that are currently in affect. He stated that they asked Gretchen Grojean, Assistant Director of Event Services and Scheduling, and Senator Hatcher, Chair of the Johnson Faculty Center Committee, to attend their next meeting to discuss renovations, duties, the available suites, etc.

Governance – Senator McFarland reported that the committee has been working on the resolution and bill that were presented today.

Professional Affairs – Senator Fulton reported that the use of WorkFlow for the electronic submission for tenure and promotion has been running smoothly. The committee has been collecting feedback from Chairs Forum regarding the tenure and promotion criteria. They are working out language for a bill to present to Senate after they bring the bill to Chairs Forum for more feedback.

Membership – No report.

Non-Legislative Committee Reports

Johnson Faculty Center – Senator Hatcher reported that they have been working with the documents committee regarding the Johnson Faculty Center. She has been in touch with the Foundation Office and Brad Sheriff, Vice President for Finance and Administration, to discuss what the Center actually does and can do for the University.

RNTT AdHoc – Senator Hatcher reported that she and Senator McMurry are working in language for the Faculty Handbook regarding RNTT. They hope to present a bill to the Senate at the March 31st meeting.

Adjournment

Chair-Elect Hatcher moved to adjourn; Senator Bohannon seconded. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 3-5 p.m. via Zoom.

DRAFT