The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 in the UC Missouriana/Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Rick Althaus, Jennifer Bengtson, Carl Bloom, Larry Bohannon, Eric Clements, Martha Cook, Kevin Dickson, Joni Hand, Shelby Hicks, Natalie Holley, Roberta Humphrey, Don Jung, Ziping Liu, Jocelyn Martin, Jim McGill, Belinda McMurry, Melissa Odegard-Koester, Peter Oman, Jian Peng, David Powell, Willie Redmond, Claudia Ruediger, Tim Schmidt, Carol Veneziano, Nicolas Wilkins, Bart Williams, and Diane Wood. Interim Provost McDougall was also present. Senators not present or represented by an alternate were: Kathy Ham, Tom Holman, and Julie Weathers.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes for May 6, 2015 (50.2) and September 2, 2015 (50.3) were approved.

New Business
Senator Humphrey introduced two bills to the Senate: Bill 15-A-XX Other Instructional Policy and Bill 15-A-XX Other Instructional Procedures. She went through both bills and explained what changes the Academic Affairs Committee discussed. She will bring these bills back to the next Faculty Senate meeting for approval.

Senator Veneziano introduced two bills: Bill 15-A-XX University Standing Committees and Councils Policy and Bill 15-A-XX Academic Departments Procedures. She explained what changes were made to the bills per the Governance Committee. She will bring both bills to the next Faculty Senate meeting for approval.

Senator Wood talked to the Senate about a concern with the GR609: Graduate Thesis or Creative Project Development. She stated that this is a course that students who aren’t enrolled in any courses to maintain their enrollment status, but every graduate student is being enrolled regardless and are paying a $50 fee that they shouldn’t have to pay and/or have already paid. The Senate discussed the situation.

Reports
Chair Bloom opened the floor for discussion about the Chronicle Report. He stated that not as many faculty participated the second time and thought maybe this was because the faculty didn’t hear the results from the first Chronicle Report. Some concerns that were brought up were that faculty have lost faith in surveymonkey and that they don’t think it’s anonymous; and that they aren’t able to see the comments that come back from the report. The majority of the Senate agreed that they would like to see what changes the President will bring to the University before another survey should be taken.

Interim Provost McDougall reported that he is committed to continue improving the relationships between the faculty, the administration, and Faculty Senate administration so that the Faculty Senate can play a powerful role in governance. He stated that one ultimate goal is to do what he can to assist President Vargas to be successful in this first semester.
In addition there are important thing on the academic side and he stated that he will do what he can to put them into play.

He also reported that there are a number of departments that went through the internal review process. This is a new process and the first it had been used. Interim Provost stated that he and Vice Provost McAllister will visit departments about the reviews. Lastly, he reported that there is a search underway for the Dean of Kent Library. He is in the process of establishing a committee.

**Legislative Committee Reports**

**Academic Affairs** – Senator Humphrey reported that the committee met the previous Wednesday and they worked on the two bills that were presented today. She stated that they are still working on some bills that were kicked back from the previous year and also on the Academic Dishonesty section in the Faculty Handbook.

**Compensation** – Senator Oman reported that the committee had met the previous Wednesday and they discussed unresolved issues from the previous session and new changes. The committee will be speaking with the Provost Office to talk about Graduate Equity Study and they will also pursue the Chair stipend issue.

**Documents** – Senator Powell reported that the committee met the previous Wednesday and that they are continuing to work on the recommendations from last year’s committee.

**Governance** – Senator Veneziano reported that the committee met the previous Wednesday and they worked on the two bills present today. They will continue to work on the rest of Section G of the Faculty Handbook.

**Professional Affairs** – Senator Althaus reported that the committee met last week. They will be looking at section of the Faculty Handbook which includes termination of faculty and conflict of interest. He discussed the RNTT ratio report.

**Membership** – Senator Schmidt reported that the Athletic Committee still has some vacancies. The committee was able to find an alternate from Human Environmental Studies for the Grants and Research Funding Committee.

**Adjournment**

Senator Dickson moved to adjourn. Senator Humphrey seconded. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on September 30, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the UC Missouriana/Redhawks Room.