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Faculty Senate Minutes Jun. 14, 2018

Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty Senate

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Volume XI, Number 10
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
June 14, 2018

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani. Roll was called by Secretary Steven Corns. Those whose names are **grayed** out below were absent.

Brent Unger, Audra Merfeld-Langston, Mark Mullin, David Westenberg, Craig Claybaugh, Fui-Hoon Nah, Parthasakha Neogi, **Jee Ching Wang**, Jeffrey Winiarz, Klaus Woelk, Mark Fitch, Jianmin Wang; **Wei Jiang**, (Michael Gosnell for) Chaman Sabharwal, Michael Davis, Levent Acar, (Ali Hurson for) James Drewniak, Kurt Kosbar, **Maciej Zawodniok**, Steven Corns, Steve Raper, K. C. Dolan, Sarah Hercula, , Norbert Maerz, David Wronkiewicz, Kathleen Sheppard, (Mark Schlesinger for) Wayne Huebner, (Jeff Smith for) David Van Aken, (Stephanie Fitch for) Akim Adekpedjou, (Paul Runnion for) Martin Bohner, S.N. **Balakrishnan**, **Umit Koylu**, Ashok Midha, Gearoid MacSithigh, **Otis Register**, **Shoaib Usman**, Paul Worsey, Dan Waddill, **Ulrich Jentschura**, Amber Henslee

II. Approval of Minutes

Two typographical corrections to the draft April 26, 2018 minutes were submitted via email prior to the meeting: The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Campus Reports

A. Staff Council

Mr. John Cook reported that Staff Day was held on May 30. Ms. Barbara Palmer, administrative assistant of Faculty Senate, was acknowledged by the audience as a recipient of the Staff Excellence Award. Mr. Cook also stated that the Staff Council Employee Scholarship deadline is June 15 and Staff Council Nominations will be accepted through June 22, 2018.

B. Student Council
- NO REPORT

C. Council of Graduate Students
- NO REPORT

IV. Visitor – Chief Roberts

University Police Chief Doug Roberts addressed the Senate, saying he wanted to establish an ongoing dialogue. Chief Roberts mentioned that the campus is eliminating older equipment, such as the “blue-light” emergency phones, and introducing state of the art server-based security cameras, which have already aided in identifying an individual who was considered a threat to the campus. He added that the cameras, as well as the Rave Guardian App, and Active Shooter Training, and roving patrols are part of a community policing effort to keep the campus safe. Chief Roberts mentioned that he has formed a security and safety working group to share ideas before they are implemented and to gain firsthand information about concerns related to security and safety. He added that there are currently twenty six student officers, including the first international student employee. The Chief encouraged faculty, staff, and students to reach out to him at any time. Concerns were expressed about storage of and access to recordings made by surveillance cameras. Chief Roberts was asked to discuss these concerns with his safety and security working group and was encouraged to draft guidelines on storage of and access to recordings from surveillance cameras.

V. President’s Report

Professor Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani reported that the highly selective status for Missouri S&T was approved by the Board of Curators on May 21. She added that the Board had requested a statement of “uniqueness” of each campus and that the statement from S&T had been delivered on June 6.

Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani said that the Intercampus Faculty Council met on May 17 at which meeting the NTT proposal from the ad-hoc committee was endorsed and a motion that posthumous degrees be awarded across the UM System was passed. A white paper on evaluating teaching has been completed and sent to IFC for review. Future IFC initiatives proposed were the review of grievance policy and resolution procedures, review of joint appointment policies, and continued discussion of the NTT policy.

Professor Sedigh Sarvestani mentioned that ongoing Faculty Senate initiatives include review of the bylaws, development of procedure for creation and alignment of academic departments, and concluding investigation into the solar house sale, which was reported on by the Budgetary Affairs Committee during the April 26 meeting of Faculty Senate.

Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani stated that several issues have been referred to standing committees for consideration, including the possible addition of a fall break before Thanksgiving, review of disability support policies and practices, and budgetary affairs related topics.

She also discussed questions she had received from Faculty Senators. Topics ranged from the composition of the Chancellor Search Committee to the effect on enrollment of changing our admissions category to highly selective.

Details of the report are available at the following link:
[President.Report.6.14.18](#)

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Curricula

Professor Tom Schuman presented the Curricula Committee report stating that the Curricula Committee met on May 9 and 31 to review twenty-three degree change requests, nine course change requests, and eight experimental course requests.

Motion: The Curricula Committee moves for Faculty Senate to approve the DC and CC form actions.

The motion passed.

Motion: The Curricula Committee moves for Faculty Senate to adopt the minor creation policy.

After a period of discussion, Professor Mark Fitch **moved** to amend the motion to say that new courses may not be created during the creation of a minor. *The motion to amend motion did not carry.*

Professor Fitch proposed a friendly amendment to delete “the” before “Chancellor Policy II-30” in the proposed policy. Professor Schuman accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the Campus Curricula Committee. *The motion passed.*

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[CCC.Report.6.14.18](#)

[FS.Slides.6.14.18](#)

B. Budgetary Affairs

Professor Mark Fitch updated the Senate on the various referrals they have received, some of which have been previously reported upon. He briefly discussed the BAC’s consideration of retention issues and a few slight changes to the budget situation since the April meeting. He also gave an overview of funding designated for the Missouri State University cooperative program, stating that tuition generated the majority of the funds.

Professor Fitch then mentioned the possibility that post-award administration may be centralized in Columbia. He commented that the BAC expressed concern that a centralized system may not work better and may simply result in staff layoffs.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[BAC.Report.6.14.18](#)

C. Academic Freedom and Standards

Professor Mark Schlesinger presented a motion from the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee regarding a plus-minus grading system.

Motion:

“Effective Fall Semester 2019 the Missouri University of Science and Technology will adopt a plus-minus (+/-) grading policy for undergraduate and graduate courses similar to that used by the University of Missouri–Columbia, with the following exceptions:

- (i) The grade of A+ will not be used;
- (ii) The grades of D+ and D– will not be used; and
- (iii) The last paragraph of the University of Missouri policy, which treats C– grades as part of the ‘C range’ for the purpose of meeting ‘C or better’ course prerequisites, will be omitted.”

Mizzou +/- grade policy:

The purpose of the grading system is to provide a framework in which the faculty can report evaluation of a student's performance and achievement. For the internal purposes of a school or college, its faculty may adopt a variant of the campus grading system.

The A through F grading system is appropriate for those subjects and situations that allow discrimination in quality of achievement and performance. The S/U grading system is more appropriate for students wishing to take elective courses in a subject matter field in which they will be competing with majors, for mastery learning situations, and for courses graded primarily on the basis of attendance.

Grades carrying credit are: A+/-, B+/-, C+/-, D+/-, and S. Grades calculated in the grade point average are A+ (4.00), A (4.00), A- (3.7), B+ (3.3), B (3.00), B- (2.7), C+ (2.3), C (2.00), C- (1.7), D+ (1.3), D (1.00), D- (0.7), and F (0). The grades of S, U, NR, and W are not incorporated in the grade point average.

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 to remain in good academic standing.

All regulations currently applicable on a course-by-course basis and tied to a specific letter grade are interpreted to mean a specific letter grade range. Hence, if a student must achieve a C in one course in order to proceed to another course, under the plus-minus grading system, that student must achieve a grade in the C range, which would include the grade of C-.

All regulations currently tied to a specific grade average are interpreted to mean the numerical average currently associated with that specific grade. Hence, the required C average or better on all courses is a 2.00 average or better.

The grade of S (on S/U basis) is defined as equivalent to the letter grade of C- or higher.

Discussion included comments regarding concerns about the policy's impact on GPA, especially in regard to student athletes, and financial aid issues. Some faculty, however, expressed their belief that this change is an opportunity to assist and motivate weaker students.

A **motion** was made and seconded to refer the issue to the Student Affairs Committee. *The referral was approved.*

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[AFS.6.14.18](#)

D. Administrative Review

Professor Ali Hurson discussed the sequence of events related to the Administrative Review process, reporting that the results of the surveys were presented to the Faculty Senate Officers in May. He said a summary of the numerical results (without comments) will be made available on the Senate website. Professor Hurson gave a verbal summary of the results to the Senate. He outlined that the next step is to share the results with the Provost and then the data will be archived.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[ARC.6.14.18](#)

VII. External Campus Reports

Professor Sedigh Sarvestani called the body's attention to the Missouri S&T Academic Program Review Task Force Report prepared by Professor John McManus. She explained that Dr. McManus could not be present to discuss the report. She urged the Senators to review the report, which is posted on the Senate website.

VIII. Administrative Reports

A. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Maples gave an update regarding S&T's "highly selective status", which was endorsed by the Board of Curators and was approved by the Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education on June 7.

The Chancellor stated that the Missouri Governor must sign the state budget by June 30. He said the budget in its current state calls for 60% funding from the state for the Missouri State partnership to be rolled into the core funding. He explained that S&T is planning for slow or no growth in enrollment and anticipates a change in our student demographics. He added that in addition to the 2% merit increase that has been discussed, there will also be some mandatory costs and medical benefits costs increases. He said our current Board of Curators includes some very active and involved members.

Chancellor Maples closed by noting that this meeting concludes his first year as Chancellor at S&T. He thanked the Faculty Senate for their involvement and commitment to the university and to educating our students.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[Chancellor.Report.6.14.18](#)

B. Provost's Report

Provost Marley reported that a final draft of the Strategic Plan is almost complete. He reminded the body that the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation visit is scheduled for October 8-9. Dr. Marley congratulated the Faculty External Rewards and Recognition Committee award recipients: Gary Long, Bill Fahrenholtz, Samuel Frimpong, Kamal Khayat, Kelly Liu, John Myers, Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe, and David Rogers.

The Provost mentioned that HR is processing new hires, but to date approximately twenty-four new faculty have been hired and fourteen have left the university through retirement or for other reasons. He stated that in addition to the 2% expected merit raise pool, an additional equity pool of 2% will be identified.

Provost Marley mentioned several leadership changes across campus. He stated that Professor Braden Lusk has accepted a position with a private company but will be staying in the Rolla area and will maintain a working relationship with Missouri S&T. He said that Library Director John Furlong's contract was not renewed. He added that administration is currently examining the structure with the assistance of an external consultant. He also said that Anthony Petroy has resigned as Vice Chancellor for Global Learning. Provost Marley indicated that an interim will be named after consultation with various constituencies involved.

The details of the report as well as division updates are posted at the following link:

[Provost.Report.6.14.18](#)

VII. New Business

- NONE

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Corns, Secretary