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Faculty Senate Minutes Apr. 7, 2016

Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty Senate

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Volume IX, Number 8
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Special Meeting
April 7, 2016

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Those whose names are **grayed** out below were absent.

William Bragg, (Max Tohline for) Lance Haynes, Audra Merfeld-Langston, Mark Mullin, David Westenberg, Craig Claybaugh, Fui-Hoon Nah, **Daniel Forciniti**, **Ali Rownaghi**, Richard Dawes, Tom Schuman, Stuart Baur, Joel Burken, Mark Fitch, Fikret Ercal, (Ali Hurson for) Chaman Sabharwal, Michael Davis, Levent Acar, Kurt Kosbar, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Maciej Zawodniok, K. C. Dolan, Steven Corns, Abhijit Gosavi, **Ralph Flori**, **Wan Yang**, Michael Bruening, Bill Fahrenholtz, (David Van Aken for) Wayne Huebner, Martin Bohner, **Robert Paige**, S.N. Balakrishnan, Umit Koylu, Gearoid MacSithigh, Ashok Midha, **Otis Register**, **Shoaib Usman**, **Paul Worsey**, **Barbara Hale**, Ulrich Jentschura, Amber Henslee

II. Proposed Resolution endorsing MAFS Conceal and Carry resolution – T. Schuman

Tom Schuman presented the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates Resolution Articulating Opposition to Conceal and Carry on Campus.

Motion: The Rules, Procedure and Agenda Committee (RP&A) moves for Faculty Senate endorsement of the resolution.

Coming from a committee, no second is needed. *The motion passed.*

[The resolution is available at the following link: MAFS Conceal and Carry](#)

III. Proposed resolution to create Graduate Funding Policy special committee – T. Schuman

Dr. Schuman then presented a proposal to create a Graduate Student Funding Policy Committee as a special committee under Faculty Senate. A friendly amendment to add Matt Insall to the proposed committee was accepted at the time the proposal was circulated by email. Dr. Schuman explained that Dr. Insall had been involved with Graduate Council in the development of Stipend X as well as the Graduate Student Funding Policy. The remaining balance of disciplines represented on the proposed committee correlates to the balance of graduate students on campus.

Motion: RP&A moves for creation of the 2016 Missouri S&T Faculty Senate Graduate Funding Policy Committee. Coming from a committee, no second is needed.

Dr. Acar asked whether there was an end-date for this committee, seeing as it is a temporary, ad hoc committee. A friendly amendment was added to the charge to the committee:

(3) The committee will complete its task by end of Summer Session 2016.

The motion passed.

IV. Ad hoc committee report on Graduate Student Funding policy – R. Landers

Robert Landers presented a report from the aforementioned Graduate Student Funding Policy Committee. Dr. Landers stated that the committee had conducted several meetings with Walt Branson and Lisa Cerney to gather financial information related to graduate student funding, specifically with the strategic initiative funds that have come to campus. He discussed the current situation with recurring strategic initiative funds, the impact on the number of Ph.D. students enrolled and modifications the committee would like to see put into place to better utilize existing funds and make our program more competitive. He presented a path forward whereby all Ph.D. graduate student assistants on a .25 or higher FTE appointment would have their tuition waived, while still maintaining the Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowships. Dr. Landers indicated that the next step would be for the committee to complete the proposal and present it to Chancellor Schrader.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded for Faculty Senate to endorse the report.

The motion passed.

The report is available at the following link: [Graduate Funding Task Force Presentation](#)

V. Proposed resolution to Board of Curators regarding due process – T. Schuman

Tom Schuman presented a resolution regarding the termination of MU Professor Melissa Click's employment by the Board of Curators. Dr. Schuman explained that the resolution was drafted because RP&A objected to the way the situation was handled; specifically, the Board of Curators did not follow the University's Collected Rules and Regulations in firing Professor Click.

A friendly amendment was accepted to change the wording from "objects strongly to the termination of her employment" to "objects strongly to the method of termination of her employment."

Dr. Michael Davis voiced opposition to passing a resolution of this kind in the current atmosphere noting that the hostile legislature required action by the Board of Curators. Dr. Schuman stated that no one filed a complaint; Melissa Click was terminated without a complaint ever being lodged against her. Dr. Kurt Kosbar indicated that he was torn, since the Board did not follow the CRRs, but he said he believes that the faculty as a whole is culpable since no one voiced a complaint; therefore the Board was forced to step in. Professor Acar said he expects the administration to file a complaint in a situation such as this, but that he believes that it is unrealistic to think that Melissa Click will be reinstated as a result of this resolution.

Discussion continued with comments from several faculty members until Dr. Schuman called the Question.

Motion: RP&A moves for Faculty Senate to support the resolution.

The motion passed.

The resolution is available at the following link: [Click Resolution](#)

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bruening, Secretary