



25 Feb 2021

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Feb. 25, 2021

Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty Senate

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Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Feb. 25, 2021" (2021). *Minutes & Agendas*. 152.

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Volume XIII, Number 5
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
February 25, 2021

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Raper. Roll was called by Secretary Kathryn (KC) Dolan. Those whose names are grayed out below were absent.

Akim Adekpedjou, Julia Alexander, Venkat Allada, Stuart Baur, Jeff Cawlfeld, Amitava Choudhury, Steve Corns, William Fahrenholtz, Mahalet Fikru, Darin Finke, Mark Fitch, Samuel Frimpong, Michael Gosnell, Sarah Hercula, Mike Hilgers, Kelly Homan, Ali Hurson, Matt Insall, Ulrich Jentschura, Kurt Kosbar, K. Krishnamurthy, Ashok Midha, Fui-Hoon (Fiona) Nah, Parthasakha Neogi, Jonathan Obrist-Farner, Lonnie Pirtle, Jorge Porcel, Steve Raper, Prakash Reddy, Melissa Ringhausen, Chaman Sabharwal, William Schonberg, Michael Schulz, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Kathleen Sheppard, Jeff Smith, Nancy Stone, Shoab Usman, Jee Ching Wang, David Westenberg, Daniel Willis, Maciej Zawodniok

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 19 and the January 28 meetings were distributed prior to the meeting.

The motion to approve the minutes for November 19 *passed*.

The motion to approve the minutes for January 28 *passed*.

At the request of a senator, a question and its response will be included in the senate's minutes.

III. Campus Reports

A. Staff Council

Amanda Kossuth, Staff Council President, spoke about the new staff success center website. The link is live and has a feedback link. You can access it here:

<https://staffcouncil.mst.edu/staffsuccesscenter/>.

Staff Council is working on the spring staff appreciation event. In May, staff council is planning on holding an in-person event. The May event will recognize staff excellence and staff who have been employed at the university for five years. A call for nominations will be sent out next month.

B. Student Council

Lawrence Hierlmeier, Student Council President, stated that there have been a few mental health questions and concerns brought up to student council and they have been working with Jessica Gargus from student support services and administrators to address these concerns.

C. Council of Graduate Students

Javier Valentin-Sivicio spoke about a concern graduate students have when their advisor departs from Missouri S&T. The Council of Graduate Students (CGS) would like to present a policy recommendation where department chairs should strive to identify an alternate advisor and alternate source of funding for impacted students.

Senator Kurt Kosbar proposed the following resolution,
Faculty Senate encourages department chairs and their department faculty to search for an alternate advisor and alternate source of funding for any graduate student whose advisor departs from Missouri S&T.
Resolution *passes*.

IV. A. Guest Speaker-General Education Committee

Jim Musser presented on behalf of the General Education Committee (GEC). The General Education Oversight Committee was organized in Fall 2019, and the committee polled faculty at the end of that semester. The results came back in the summer and the new information is available to share.

- Faculty poll results regarding ideal General Education
 - ~ 1/2 content-based and 1/2 skill-based learning outcomes
 - ~ 2/3 introductory courses and 1/3 upper-level courses
- General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs) created
 - Synthesis of Missouri S&T Undergraduate SLOs and CORE-42 SLOs
 - Detailed “sub-GELOs” mostly created
- Work being done on policy and procedures
 - Gen-Ed course application and renewal
 - GELO assessments
 - Standing committee membership and role
- Contribution to writing of HLC interim report (Due May 31, 2021)
- Expected impact on Missouri S&T curriculum
- Gen-Ed identified courses similar to current set
- Opportunity to identify additional courses as Gen-Ed courses
- Gen-Ed course instructors will be aware of and required to address the GELOs associated with their course.
- Associated GELOs will be assessed for each Gen-Ed course

- Assessments will be considered in Gen-Ed course renewal and will be used to identify deficiencies in the Gen-Ed program.

The GEC is required to report to the Faculty Senate twice per semester.

V. President's Report

Faculty Senate President Steve Raper presented and shared that IFC met on February 18th. The meeting was informational, and the topics included eLearning, technology updates and legislative information.

There was a request from a faculty senator to consider off site delivery, such as equipment needed if you must teach off site, financial implications, and who provides the equipment. A request was made to Cuba Plain, and she provided some information about Missouri S&T service equipment loans. There is a policy, HR 522 that discusses equipment.

The online teaching certification requirement has been extended to fall 2022.

ACT and SAT test optional admittance has been extended to fall 2022.

Faculty Senate reached out on behalf of faculty and staff to ask the Provost about the integrity of the Title IX office, extending to the chief diversity officer. Is there any concern with legal about past adjudicating cases?

There are some proposed modifications to the current by-laws. An open forum was held last week. The graduate council submitted a motion objecting to the graduate faculty council being included as a standing committee. As faculty senators, please communicate with your faculty.

Commencement for spring 2021 will be held live and it is in the planning stages now. May 2020 and December 2020 graduates will have an event later.

There have been two recent referrals to faculty senate standing committees. The referrals will not be reviewed today. One of the referrals is related to promotion and tenure; the other is academic, and the Academic Freedom and Standards committee will look at it.

Many things are happening on campus and some of the faculty senators have seen a more responsive administration regarding faculty concerns. The message to administration is that times of uncertainty do cause stress on the faculty.

Matt Insall requested that the students not be notified of things before first notifying the faculty. Policy changes that affect the classroom should be shared with faculty first.

Inclement weather notifications and faculty holding class during inclement weather from home or off-campus need to be shared with faculty first. Chancellor Dehghani responded by saying weather decisions are often made in real time. Administration and many other people are involved in making those decisions, and there is not always enough time to consult with a group of faculty beforehand, but agrees it is a good idea.

Homan will be the next President of Faculty Senate. If you are interested in becoming an officer in Faculty Senate, please reach out to him.

VI. Administrative Reports

A. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Dehghani started his presentation and stated he is fully cognizant of the level of stress that exists on campus not only with faculty but across campus.

Staff Council has done tremendous work on establishing the Staff Success Center and asked that the faculty look at the website and comment.

Student Council has put together a significant outreach program referred to as an army of champions where successful juniors and seniors go back to their own high schools and speak about their experiences at Missouri S&T.

Change is upon us and there will be more changes in the next 2 to 3 years than there have been in the last 20 years in higher education. The news is reporting between 750 and 1000 institutions may not make it. The level of stress and uncertainty is understood. Chancellor Dehghani appreciates everyone doing a tremendous job under the stress.

B. Provost's Report

Daniel Forciniti, Associate Provost presented for the Provost. Freshman deposits are far ahead of last year due to the Kummer Vanguard Scholarship and the exceptional effort of enrollment management and faculty.

CET averages are available to chairs, deans, provost, and the chancellor through IT per the recommendation from the Committee on Effective Teaching. CET averages are typically exceptional, with the most common averages falling between 3.01 and 4.

The faculty online teaching certification deadline has been extended to the beginning of the fall 2022 semester.

VII. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Curricula

Steve Raper presented on behalf of the Campus Curricula Committee (CCC). The committee met on February 10 and will meet again on March 2. The committee reviewed 7 course change forms, 14 program change forms and 2 experimental course requests.

There was a name change request that has already been approved through the DSCC and the CCC for Nuclear Engineering and Radiation Science.

The CCC moves for Faculty Senate to approve the program change forms and course change forms.

Motion passes.

B. Administrative Review

Wayne Huebner presented on behalf of the Administrative Review Committee (ARC). Five administrative positions were approved for review at the January meeting. The approved positions were asked to provide job descriptions and have sent those to the committee. The questions will be ranked using the strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree and unsure options. For each administrator, the last survey question is, administrator X should be retained in his/her position as Z.

The Administrative Review Committee moves for Faculty Senate to approve the mainline questions and the sub questions for each of the positions under review to allow the committee to move forward with the survey next month.

Motion passed.

C. Committee on Excellence in Teaching

Dan Oerther presented on behalf of the Committee on Excellence in Teaching (CET).

The committee made a motion that;

- 1) Numeric results of the current instrument used for student evaluation of teaching (i.e., both the State mandated questions as well as the campus questions) be made available to administrators (i.e., Department Chairs, Deans, and Provost, including via instruments such as MyVita);
- 2) This availability be limited to the results beginning with the Autumn 2020 semester and future results (i.e., disclosure of results for Summer 2020 and prior would remain at the sole discretion of the instructor);
- 3) Written comments would be excluded from this availability because these comments were collected from students with a promise of anonymity and an

implication of sole disclosure to the instructor. In the view of the CET, sharing written comments collected using the current instrument would be serious breach of trust among student, instructor, and institution.

- 4) An improved instrument used for student evaluations be developed allowing students to offer both anonymous comments to the instructor plus anonymous comments to administrators.

A friendly amendment was made to change it to the following.

- 1) Numeric results of the current instrument used for student evaluation of teaching (i.e., both the State mandated questions as well as the campus questions) be made available to the instructors direct reporting administrator (i.e., Department Chairs, Deans, and Provost, including via instruments such as MyVita);
- 2) This availability be limited to the results beginning with the Autumn 2020 semester and future results (i.e., disclosure of results for Summer 2020 and prior would remain at the sole discretion of the instructor);
- 3) Written comments would be excluded from this availability because these comments were collected from students with a promise of anonymity and an implication of sole disclosure to the instructor. In the view of the CET, sharing written comments collected using the current instrument would be serious breach of trust among student, instructor, and institution.
- 4) An improved instrument used for student evaluations be developed.

There was a motion to table. The motion did *not pass*.

The friendly amendment *passed*.

The amended motion did *not pass*.

D. Budgetary Affairs

Mark Fitch presented on behalf of the Budgetary Affairs Committee (BAC). There are no outstanding referrals.

For the big picture, the budget is on target so far. There is hope that some of the positions that are being held can be released and the people can be replaced.

The next fiscal year's planning is just beginning, and the committee has been told to plan on state funding to be flat.

Tuition revenue is unknown and there has been some talk of a 1.3% increase in tuition costs.

It is expected that insurance costs will increase but it is unknown how much.

System has informed the committee that they want compensation adjustment and they want to give raises either merit or equity.

COVID funding part 3 that is being discussed in Congress is expected not to impact Missouri S&T, and the only impact might be at the State level.

In the January faculty senate meeting, it was reported that CEC had a big increase in spending. To provide more detail, this was caused by open faculty lines coming from departments.

E. Information Technology

John Singler presented on behalf of the Information Technology Computing Committee (ITCC). The FS had a referral to ITCC regarding the future of greenscreen production classrooms. The ITCC formed an ad hoc committee and the members are Andreas Eckert, chair (vice chair ITCC, Geosciences and Geological and Petroleum Engineering), Caprice Moore (Global Learning), Jeff Jennings (CAFE), Levi Hudson (IT), David Wright (English and Technical Communication), and Maciej Zawodniok (Electrical and Computer Engineering).

An email was sent after the last faculty senate meeting, and it included the new method to email concerns to IT and get responses. IT also has a new blog as another way to communicate.

Because of budget cuts among other things, IT has been having a hard time retaining and hiring staff so they are shorthanded, and this may cause service delays.

Recent information security issues have gotten the attention of high level leaders, including President Choi, and thus, IT has been able to obtain additional funding for security improvements. This means that additional security policies and technologies will be coming.

Beth Chancellor spoke and shared that there have been and will continue to be a number of IT changes at the campus and system levels. To help communicate the changes in the UM System IT services, a communications person will be hired. The plan is to send out weekly emails to keep everyone informed about IT topics.

Mark Bookout is leaving his current role as CIO and reassuming leadership of Missouri S&T RSSS and will also be leading the MU Research IT team. This will eliminate duplicate efforts of Missouri S&T and MU.

A new permanent CIO will arrive by July 1, 2021. Brandon Hough will serve as interim CIO until the new CIO arrives and the Interim Associate CIO will be Mark Bookout.

VIII. New Business

No new business.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
K.C. Dolan, Secretary