

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
April 6, 2010

Present: Senators Awori, Bartnik, Begley, Binfield, Blaylock, Bloomdahl, Farrell, Gannon, Goggins, Guyer, Herr, Jung, Kleinhans, Koren, Landini, Locke, Miller, Norris, Ortmann, Papajeski, Peake, Pittman-Munke, Porter, Rose, Smith, Washington, White, Yarali, and Regent Morgan.
Dr. Tina Coffelt was proxy for Senator Gesler, Department of Organizational Communication.

Absent: Senators Bodevin, Busija, LaValle, McCreary, Revell, Robertson, Rogers, Lt. Col. Simons, and Swisher. Guests: Josh Jacobs, President's Office. News Media: The Murray State News, WKMS.

The minutes of March 2 were unanimously approved noting corrected attendance.

REPORTS

Board of Regents--Regent Morgan briefly reported on board activities. The board will meet on May 7 to set tuition and fees. The May 21st General Board meeting has been moved to June 11th; contracts may be slightly delayed. Dr. Morgan noted that WKMS has raised two-thirds of its spring pledge drive goal of \$130,000. Textbook rental plans are being investigated by the University Store.

Academic Policies- Chair Koren reported on a meeting with the new registrar. She would be willing to consider plus/minus grading systems but they tend to be costly to implement. Schools with Banner systems normally abandon them. The consensus of the committee is to let this issue die. Blanket advisor holds are currently not possible with Banner; but, the registrar will allow individual holds upon request. The committee discussed by email course numbering for graduate classes.

Handbook and Personnel – Chair Porter introduced an agenda item left over from the previous senate meeting. The senate approved a change to the *Faculty Handbook, Section 1.3.5.1, The Selection of Deans*, striking a clause to allow the president to restrict deans' searches to internal candidates. The committee saw the clause as being at odds with the institutional mission.

Finance- Chair Rose presented a report on behalf of the committee that shared employee growth data and athletic expenditures. The information will be shared with the president by the senate leadership. Dr. Rose asked Regent Morgan to also share with board members.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws-Vice President Pittman-Munke congratulated Dr. Morgan on his reelection as Faculty Regent. He was elected by acclamation of the committee as the sole candidate. Regent Morgan was applauded as an excellent voice of faculty on the MSU Board of Regents. The issue of preferential voting was deferred to next year's committee. Faculty support online elections. The senate voted to move the election of at-large members to the executive committee from the September to the organizational meeting of the senate. Dr. Pittman-Munke listed faculty positions still needing nominations. Faculty were reminded that if no nominations are received for any position it becomes a dean's appointment.

Governmental Affairs-Vice President Pittman-Munke reported that COSFL continues to monitor HB160 on transferrability of courses, CPE approved the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) for the regional comprehensives. Each institution is being asked to appoint faculty to working groups on general education. Dr. Peter Murphy represents Murray State on the CPE committee.

Executive—President White noted the passing of two professor emeriti; Dr. Charles Homra, past chair of the Department of Psychology; and Dr. James Thompson, professor of economics.

The executive committee has asked Dr. Stephen Herr to chair a nominating committee to present a slate of next year's senate officers at the next senate meeting; Dr. Winfield Rose and Dr. Tina Coffelt will serve. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

The executive committee discussed concerns over departments being asked to renumber graduate courses. The provost agreed to come to a meeting to explain the requests; but no one was available to attend today. It was considered by some faculty as an academic matter to be discussed by the Academic Council.

A memo of concerns over social networking was forwarded by the senate president to the Handbook and Personnel/Academic Policies Committees.

Dr. White reminded chairs that the organizational meeting of next year's senate was moved back a week to avoid finals week. Committees should adjust their April meetings schedules.

Academic Council

Undergraduate Studies-Vice President Pittman-Munke reported a small amount of proposals have been passed by the committee. Changes could not be considered after March 1.

Graduate Studies-Dr. Gannon, chair, reported the approval of routine courses and a number of courses in nursing that represent the core of a DNP and commended the Department of Nursing for being proactive. Our proposal has been posted to CPE for review. He thanked Vice Chair Rogers for serving as chair in his absence.

Library and Academic Support-Chair Koren reported that the committee met with Dean Murray. New sites have been selected and are being reviewed for building requirements. The committee discussed a survey to look at acquisitions budgets of other institutions to be sent out after July 1.

Residential Colleges-Dr. Landini announced Dr. Navan's retirement. Her vacancy as college head of White College will be filled as of August 1.

Insurance and Benefits- Senator Porter, committee member, reported that the committee had approved a sick leave buy back proposal and has forwarded it to Vice President Denton.

New business-Senator Herr noted that several faculty have shared concerns over the recent provost search. The money expended on the process seemed to be a major concern. The executive committee will review protocol and may ask the board to review the process.

The senate suspended bylaws in order to consider a resolution brought to the floor. The senate then voted to recommend that the university investigate domestic partner benefits for employees. The resolution will be routed to the Faculty/Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee.

The senate adjourned at 5:10 p.m.