MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Regular Meeting
November 1, 2011

Present: Senators Begley, Binfield, Bloomdahl,Bodevin,Busija, Byers, Campbell, Coffelt, Naber, Fawzy, Herr, Humphreys, Jung, Koren, Messer, Mitchell, Papajeski, Patterson, Pittman-Munke, Robertson, Rose, Stambaugh, Washington, Weir, A. White, S. White, and Zingrone. Guests: Helen Roulston, Chris Wilcox-MSU News, Josh Jacobs-Office of the President, Dr. Bonnie Higginson-Office of the Provost.

Absent: Senators Goggins, Guyer (excused), Hoover, Ortega, Ortmann, Rogers, Simon, Smith, and Yarali.

Proxy: Renee Fister for Senator Porter

The meeting was called to order by President Pittman-Munke at 3:31 p.m.

The minutes of October 4, 2011, were motioned to be approved by Senator Binfield, seconded by Senator Robertson, and approved by unanimous decision.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE: Vice President Koren presented faculty member Helen Roulston with a gift, recognizing her for 45 years of service to Murray State University.

REPORTS

Board of Regents—Regent Rose asked that senators having any information needing to be addressed regarding salary compression please let him know. Also, he mentioned that Murray State University's official enrollment number was stated at 10,617 students. Regent Rose also made note of the fact that the public school evaluation of the President, in correlation with the Presidential review and 4 year evaluation, is open for suggestions from senators.

Academic Policies—Senator Papajeski reported that there was not enough support from faculty in the plus/minus survey to implement the use of the plus/minus grading system. The survey results included 437 students, 162 faculty, and 54 staff members. Of the faculty, only 43.5% responded in favor of the plus/minus system, with 49.1% not in favor, and 7.5% indifferent to implementation. In reference to all survey responders, only 24.3% were in favor of the plus/minus system, with 68.5% not in favor, and 7.2% indifferent.

Finance—Committee did not meet due to lack of members; however, Senator Weir reported that the committee will be looking at gauging faculty concerns about compensation via email and will ask for prompt responses.

Governmental Affairs/COSFL—No report.

Handbook and Personnel—Senator S. White notified senators that the committee will be looking at intellectual property rights with regards to copyrights and patents.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws—Vice President Koren reported that the committee is meeting between the 14th and 18th of November to discuss survey questions regarding the Presidential review and 4 year evaluation. He reported that these 10-12 detailed questions will be sent through myGate to faculty and staff after a decision is made about the eligibility criteria for survey takers. Renee Fister made mention that an announcement needed to be made to faculty when the survey was available, and Senator Binfield brought to the groups attention the need for limits in the open-ended response section of the survey.

Executive—President Pittman-Munke reported that the Executive committee was looking into the Tuition Waivers policy in order to potentially incorporate a new criteria of eligibility for children dependents. The criteria mentioned the use of birth certificates/adoption papers certifying birth of child to employee, custody arrangements, and payment of child support. The criterion of having 25% or more time living in the household of the employee was stricken from the criteria due to lack of substantial evidence of what constitutes 25% of time. Also, the extension of age of eligibility for dependents was asked to be increased from 24 to 26 to follow the health insurance eligibility. President Pittman-Munke made the motion to send the policy to the Insurance and Benefits Committee. 19 senators were in favor of this, and the decision was made to send the policy to the Insurance and Benefits Committee.

President Pittman-Munke then reported that a change needed to be made to the EEO Appeals Policy, making it specific to faculty and fairer to all parties involved in the appeals process. Open suggestions were taken from senators as to what changes should and should not be made in the policy. The policy was then decided to be open for suggestions for a week, when it will then be revised and returned to be voted on in the December regular meeting.

Academic Council

Undergraduate Studies—No report.

Graduate Studies—Senator Weir stated that the council was looking at student continuations and degree extensions.

Library and Academic Support—No report.

Residential Colleges—Senator Bodevin reported that an academic parliament would meet in Richmond and Clark on November 16, 2011, and will extend into the spring semester with meetings in January and February.

Insurance and Benefits Committee—No report.

International Studies Advisory Council—No report.

Old Business---President Pittman-Munke requested that the Handbook and Personnel

Committee look at the EEO Faculty Appeals Policy in comparison to any appeals policies in the Faculty Handbook to make sure there is no confliction between policies.

New business—President Pittman-Munke notified senators of the need for a Faculty Senate Webmaster. She asked for volunteers, and because there were none, she decided to notify Dr. Higginson of the matter, in order for the position of Webmaster to be filled.

President Pittman-Munke also brought to senators' attentions that there were complaints from faculty about the lack of financial aid for the Winter Term. Senator Coffelt reported that in order to offer financial aid for the Winter Term, Murray State University would have to reclassify and rework the way they award financial aid entirely.

Vice President Koren reminded senators to follow parliamentary procedure by stating their name and department before speaking in order to let everyone have a chance to learn one another's names.

The motion was made by Senator Coffelt to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. This was seconded by Senator Binfield and approved by unanimous decision.