Volume XVIII, Number 5
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
February 22, 2024

I.   Call to Order and Roll Call
The meeting was called to order by President Dr. KC Dolan at 2:00 PM. Roll was called by Secretary Paul Runnion. Those whose names are grayed out below were absent.

Lana Alagha, Venkat Allada, Stuart Baur, Matthew Burmeister, Devin Burns, Jeff Cawlfield, Amitava Choudhury, Steve Corns, Kathryn C. Dolan, William Fahrenholtz, Darin Finke, Daniel Fisher, Mark Fitch, Mary Gillis, Michael Gosnell, Mike Hilgers, Kelly Homan, Wenqing Hu, Ali Hurson, Umit Koylu, K. Krishnamurthy, Alanna Krolikowski, Bih-Ru Lea, Kelly Liu, Eun Soo Park, Jorge Porcel, Melissa Ringhausen, Paul Runnion, Chaman Sabharwal, Rachel Schneider, William Schonberg, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Pourya Shamsi, Jeff Smith, Lia Sotiriou-Leventis, Shoaib Usman, Jee Ching Wang, David Westenberg, Derek Williamson, Alexey Yamilov, Maciej Zawodniok

II.   Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the January 25 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.
Motion passes.

III.   President's Report
Faculty Senate President Dr. KC Dolan reported that the Board of Curators approved the extension of the test-optional admissions policy for another year. She announced that a short library use survey would be distributed soon and encouraged faculty participation. The annual Campus Climate Survey will be distributed in April, and committee elections will also occur in April. Department chairs will be receiving information about open positions soon.

President Dolan also announced that plans are underway for the new faculty lounge and invited interested faculty to contact Dave Westenberg. She also encouraged faculty to participate in upcoming open forums related to the strategic plan.

IV.   Campus Reports

A.   Staff Council
President Dolan introduced her friend Kevin Walkup who presented on behalf of Staff Council.   He announced the Faculty and Staff Appreciation event taking place the evening of the meeting, and also briefly discussed plans for the May 30 Staff Day event.

B.   Student Council

No report

C.   Council of Graduate Students

No report

V.   Special Topic – IFC Shared Governance Task Force

President Dolan introduced her friend Dr. Mike Bruening, S&T's representative on the IFC Shared Governance Task Force, who presented a summary and key themes from the recent task force report. The report was largely based on a Spring 2022 survey administered using AAUP's Shared Governance assessment tool, plus a few internal questions. About 25% of S&T's faculty responded to the survey, at at S&T, 86% of respondents were either extremely or somewhat dissatisfied with shared governance. These numbers were very similar to those found systemwide. Additionally, 77% said shared governance has gotten worse during their time at S&T and no one said it has gotten better.

On several issues, UM System is far out of line with national averages on issues of faculty primacy or dominance. The most cited issues in comments, by far, were excessive administrative dominance and top-down decision making.

The report recommends that faculty primacy/dominance be restored to traditional areas: curriculum, instruction, research, faculty status, degree requirements, appointments, promotions, tenure, and dismissal. Additionally, administrators should avoid information dumps and use appearances at faculty senate and general faculty meetings to solicit feedback instead. They should provide clear rationale that addresses faculty concerns when overturning faculty decisions or going against strong feedback. They should also share information early and often, and they should make collaborative use of committees.

Dr. Bruening also indicated that we have been out of compliance with the bylaws for many years regarding the procedures for faculty raise pools. He presented the process that will be followed this year, which includes the Department Chairs Council and the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee plans to submit a procedure to the Faculty Senate for endorsement in April.

It was suggested that a mechanism be introduced for anonymous written feedback regarding shared governance, and it was agreed that would occur.

VI.   Reports of Standing Committees

A.   Campus Curricula (CC)

President Dolan introduced her friend Dr. Petra DeWitt who presented for the CC. The CC met on January 23, 2024 and reviewed 14 Course Change forms (CC forms), 5 Program Change forms (PC forms), and 6 Experimental Course forms (EC forms). The CC moves that Faculty Senate approve the 14 CC forms and 5 PC forms.
Motion passes.

Dr. DeWitt provided information about the new approval path for new degree program proposals.

Dr. DeWitt also indicated that HLC has instructed our campus that we must implement a general education program that is universal and equal for all students, regardless of degree. We need to have an approval process in order to set this up, and the current proposal was sent with the meeting agenda and is attached to these minutes. The CCC moves that this proposal be adopted as the general education approval process for S&T.
Motion passes.

B.   Budgetary Affairs

Dr. Mark Fitch indicated that he didn't think he had much to present, but "we'll see." He presented an update on FY24 operating revenues and operating expenses. He also presented information about the second tranche of Advancing STEM state funding. For FY25, he presented information about current revenue assumptions. Next month, he anticipates presenting five-year budget information.

C.   Committee for Effective Teaching

President Dolan introduced Dr. Devin Burns, the only faculty member named in the current strategic plan. Dr. Burns requested that the record reflect that President Dolan did not refer to him as one of her friends. Dr. Burns then indicated that several departments have requested to give other individuals access to Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) data. The following motion was presented:

> If a department wants to grant access to Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) data to someone other than the department chair and administration (e.g. an assistant chair), their department faculty needs to approve such access with a 2/3 super-majority vote. They should have separate votes for access to quantitative data versus student comments. Such access will continue to be granted to whomever is in that position unless the department has another vote that does not have 2/3 support for continuing to provide them access.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the motion was an exercise in futility, whether the Provost's office would support this if approved (the Provost confirmed he would support this motion if approved), and the lack of an automatic sunset clause in the present motion. It was pointed out that a motion was brought before the Senate approximately a year ago regarding granting access to SET comments to department chairs and above, which was defeated by the Senate and then implemented by the Provost against the will of the Senate. Further discussion indicated confusion regarding why department admins would need access to this data, why these permissions would be tied to individuals rather than positions, whether ad-hoc sharing of this data was already occurring, and whether a policy needed to be implemented as to who could not access the data before further broadening the access. A motion was made and seconded to refer the issue back to committee for further consideration.
Motion to refer back to committee passes.

D.   ITCC
Acting CIO Perry Koob presented on behalf of the ITCC committee. He presented information about cybersecurity awareness (including a recent phishing email which circulated around campus). He mentioned that ITCC had concerns regarding the justification for the Simple Syllabus software and are seeking clarification. He also discussed issues surrounding software licensing, the rollout of Bitlocker around campus, and indicated that the ITCC is discussing how best to educate the campus community about the risky parts of AI.

Acting CIO Koob also discussed software installation options (particularly regarding administrative access to computers) and the licensing/legal issues with Zotero.

VII.   Unfinished Business
None

VIII.   New Business
None

IX.   Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul N. Runnion, Secretary

Approval Process for Missouri S&T's General Education Curriculum

1. The one-time creation of a new general education curriculum will originate with the General Education subgroup formed by the Provost and guided by the Associate Provost for Academic Operations, Accreditation, and Assessment. This group was created to address the mandate from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accrediting agency to create General Education guidelines for all students seeking undergraduate degrees at Missouri S&T. The initial general education curriculum will need to be approved by Campus Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate.

2. After the initial creation of a general education curriculum, future changes to the general education curriculum may originate from any group of ten or more regular faculty members at Missouri S&T, meeting either at their own initiative, or that of the Faculty Senate officers, or that of the Provost's office. If the originating group, officer, or administrator so desires, the group may include non-voting members who are not regular faculty members.

3. In all cases, the group making the proposal submits a cover letter and general education curriculum proposal to the Campus Curriculum Committee (CCC), by sending the relevant documents to the chair of the CCC. The sender should copy the Faculty Senate President, the Provost, the Vice Provosts and Deans of all the colleges, and the chair of the Department Chairs Committee.

4. The CCC solicits feedback on the proposal from each Discipline Specific Curriculum Committee (DSCC).

5. After considering the feedback from the DSCC, if the CCC approves the proposal, it shall present a motion for approval to the Faculty Senate. If the CCC does not approve the proposal, it shall return the proposal to the originating group with feedback explaining why it was rejected. If the originating group so desires, it may then make changes and start the process over again.

6. The Faculty Senate votes on the CCC's motion for approval.

7. Upon approval of the Faculty Senate, the Registrar's Office adds the new/revised general education curriculum into the catalog and adds the required courses into the Degree Audit System.

8. If desired or necessary, each department shall adjust its undergraduate degree requirements in light of the new/revised general education curriculum through the normal Degree Change (DC) process. The department will not be allowed to make any adjustments to the approved general education curriculum.

9. Assessment of the General Education Program will be the responsibility of the University Assessment Committee.