University of Central Missouri
Faculty Senate Minutes

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:23 p.m. in Union 237A with President Davie Davis presiding.

ROLL CALL:

In addition to FS President Davis, the following 23 Senators were present: Bonham, Bordere, Bouzouita, Bradley, Callahan, Ewing, Kangas, Kidwaro, Love, Neal, Norwood, Peltz, Riggins, Smith, Stevenson, Swanson, Tropf, Wenger, Yates, Marsh, Peterson, Klimek for Schaefer, and Palmer for Sarkar. Also present was Provost Wilson.

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of meeting 7 of the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate held on December 10, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Provost Wilson had the following announcements:

The President has been working on budget issues. There are a lot of viewpoints and guesses and speculation. We have not gotten any word on this issue. The President has been busy making contact with people and telling the story of higher education. The message has been favorably received. As soon as we find out anything else, it will be passed back to the Senate.

Regarding student evaluations for SB 389, we had a 16.5% response from our students. This was typical around the state. Encourage FS to look at both the process and the questions and make recommendations regarding the process and questions. Look for any way to improve it. There has been work on the validation process and we may be able to replace the current student validation process. It would allow students to self-validate.

The promotion and tenure process is being finished up and all that were submitted were approved by the President and letters have been mailed out.

Senator Yates stated that he had a constituent concern from one of his colleagues regarding budget cuts and Yates informed the constituent that the last area that would be cut is the promotion and tenure. Yates asked Wilson if he was correct in telling his colleague this. Wilson stated that the promotions will happen.
Ewing asked about whether or not there is a process in place in the event of a budget emergency that might necessitate elimination of some academic programs. Wilson responded by referring to an existing BOG policy that describes such a process.

FS VP Kangas stated that he is working with the COC this year and has had some difficulty with vacancies. He suggested that we start to look at three year terms for the Senate and Senate nominated committees.

FS President Davis had the following announcements:

Look at the SB 389 and maybe go over these and talk about this with your colleagues.

We are putting together a committee on administrator evaluations and we really need to have this.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the President’s Commission for a Positive Work Place. It starts right away for anyone who is interested in serving.

Steve Popejoy couldn’t be here today to discuss the Compensation Task Force as the agenda reflects.

Mary Kelly was in attendance to explain what the climate study has been through this year. She made a small presentation:

It started out small and then a lot of people got involved. They survey was sent out right before summer. They sent out a bid for companies to do the survey. The company chosen didn’t have academic expertise. The President’s office received a seven page document and the President stated that it was not really what we were looking for. The company then sent the President some powerpoint presentations. The BOG stated that they wanted to see it before it went out. The President then sent it to the BOG. The President’s Commission on the Status of Woman would receive it back when the BOG was finished with it. The Commission now has it, and their report will be coming out soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Staab presented motion 2008-2009-09 recommending that the FS endorse the following letter to the President.

Dear Dr. Podolefsky:

We are pleased to learn from your letter to the campus community, dated November 24, 2008, that you will be staying at the University of Central Missouri. The Faculty Senate believes that you have articulated an outstanding vision for this university and have demonstrated exemplary leadership in moving us in the direction of attaining that vision. During this time of financial stringency, it will be critically important to have a leader with knowledge of the university and proven leadership abilities.
Senator Riggins stated that she felt there was not enough information to vote on this. She stated that she would like to see the climate study first.

Senator Yates stated that he received 50 e-mails in support of this letter, 2 of which are not in his college. He received 3 negative responses of which only 1 was from his college.

Senator Swanson stated that he received similar results.

Senator Norwood asked where this letter will go if it is passed. FS President Davis stated that it is a letter to President Podolefsky so it would go to him.

Davis stated that this is not intended to be a vote of confidence; it is felt that the whole university needs to participate with this. Norwood stated that she felt the Senate should not be doing this.

Senator Callahan has had numerous contacts. The Faculty request a web page be created for tenured and tenure-track faculty to give their opinion and their vote. They felt that while they have been on break, they have not been aware of these issues.

Senator Neal stated that he has heard the same things from his college. He suggested that the motion be tabled until there is more information and more support. Neal moved to postpone until we receive more information, second from Callahan.

Yates stated that Faculty Senators are elected by their own individual colleges, and they have some expertise among faculty for the university and he believes that the people around the table today have enough information to be able to say if we approve this letter or not.

Senator Norwood agreed that the motion be tabled and suggested to have a time frame of one month to let others provide their input. She stated that if it is not a unanimous decision, it wouldn’t be a good thing and supports the motion to postpone.

FS President Davie Davis called on some gallery members to provide their input.

One gallery member stated that he served as President of the FS body from 2000-2002. He served in times that were economically stringent and stated that if the FS as a body believes that they are going to have time to postpone something like this, he thinks they will be surprised that they are not going to have the time.

Another member stated that he would like the motion to be defeated and carry out Callahan’s suggestion about creating a web site to let people provide input on the letter.
FS President Davis stated that leaving aside the belief regarding the President; it would be bad to have a change in leadership. It would take Betty Roberts at least six or more months to train and go over duties with a new President.

Another gallery member stated that the President wanted to leave two months ago, and asked, “Why should we try to retain him? He was going to leave us and we would have had to find someone else.”

There was another comment from a gallery member who supported the motion and supported the President. He stated some comments and then said, “If you are in support of this motion, vote for it. If you are against it, vote against it.”

Senator Neal then stated that he would like to retract his motion to postpone.

Senator Kidwaro asked if this letter should go to the President or the BOG. Staab stated that the initial intention was to forward this letter to the BOG, but so the faculty would not get in the way of the BOG; it was decided to forward it to the President.

Senator Palmer called the question on if the motion should be postponed or not, seconded by Senator Yates, who then asked for a recorded vote. FS President Davis stated that if the vote was yes, it means that you want to postpone. If you vote no, it means you want to consider the motion now. It was as follows:
For: Callahan, Kangas, Kidwaro, Norwood, Riggins, Palmer for Sarkar, Klimek for Schaefer, Smith, and Peterson. Against: Bonham, Bordere, Bouzouita, Bradley, Ewing, Love, Neal, Peltz, Stevenson, Swanson, Tropf, Wenger, Yates, and Marsh. The results were that the motion not be postponed and be considered today.

Now the motion brought to the floor was to end the original debate on this motion. It was decided not to end the discussion.

Senator Yates stated that now there are 49 people he has talked to who are in support of the letter.

FS VP Kangas called the question to end debate on the original discussion, seconded by Senator Yates. Motion carried unanimously.

Senator Callahan called for a vote by ballot. The results on whether to take a ballot vote or not were as follows:
For: 9, Against: 10, Abstain: 1

Then Senator Yates called for a recorded vote on whether or not the letter should be sent on to the President. The results were as follows:

PASSED For: 13 Against: 5 Abstain: 4 Motion 2008-2009-09

It was voted that the letter be sent to the President.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Gower
Faculty Senate Office Professional