

LVII No. 14
Faculty Senate Minutes
March 29, 2023

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, in the Redhawks Room of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Vera Campbell-Jones, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp, Erin Fluegge, Susan Fulton, Stephanie Hallam, Laura Hatcher, Monica Kearney, Andy Liu, Kim Louie (Chair), Hayley Love, Jenna Moore, Josh Newth, Pam Parry, Tim Schmidt, Sophia Scott, Songyon Shin, Mike Taylor, Haohao Wang, and David Yaskewich. Provost Mike Godard and SGA representative David Oliver were also present. Eric Billington was not present or represented by an alternate. The following alternates were present: Jessica Benton, Pam Gershuny, and Joe Murphy. The following proxies were present: Brooke Clubbs and Indi Braden.

Chair Louie called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting on March 8, 2023. Senator Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Schmidt. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted on the webpage.

Next on the agenda, Dr. Brad Sheriff, Vice President of Finance and Administration discussed the current budget, the fiscal 2024 budget, and answered questions. Highlights include scholarships and fee waivers are ahead of budget; tuition aspect is healthy. Southeast is in good shape on the income side of the budget. Last year, less was spent on personnel—an upside; however, the downside is all of the vacancies. Dr. Sheriff described the vacancy situation as “mission critical.” He addressed a question that was asked regarding the recent 8.7% wage increase for state employees; Senator Hatcher quoted a state code that stipulates employees of higher education are not considered state employees. Much information for fiscal year 2024 is unknown: whether there will be a tuition increase, what Southeast will receive in state appropriations, or if employees will receive a wage increase. Dr. Sheriff said that Southeast may present a deficit budget and begin looking at allocating our resources. Which resources are generating economic returns will need to be determined. Southeast has a lot of debt—prior debt from other administrations. There is significant bond debt from residential housing. “Difficult conversations” may be necessary. Dr. Sheriff said that the circumstances are not the focus; it is Southeast’s response that will influence the outcome. He added that we control our own destiny and emphasized that there are lots of opportunities that may require responding differently.

Up next was a motion by Senator Cropp to introduce **Faculty Senate Bill 23-A-X Revising Procedures for Emeritus Status** for the first reading; seconded by Senator Schmidt. Senator Cropp discussed the bill—one change is that emeritus status is approved by the president and no longer has to be approved by the board of governors. The bill will now go to departments for feedback.

Faculty Senate Bill 23-A-X X Revising Procedures for Academic Due Process was not introduced; needs more review.

Senator Schmidt said that the Graduation Resolution for Spring/Summer 2023 will be introduced and voted on during the April 12 meeting.

Chair's Report:

Chair Louie said Southeast's 150th birthday party was great, and she reminded everyone that there was still time to donate blood.

Provost's Report:

The provost did not have any updates. He was asked about deadlines for tenure and promotion, and he said that previously, he has received materials by May 5th.

SGA Report: Nora Bouzihay conducted diversity training; allocated funding for several events including African night, a student research trip, and t shirts for the Student Research Conference; David will be meeting with Chris Martin and Dr. Vargas on April 10

Academic Affairs: No report

Compensation: Met over Spring break—will also meet with other committee representatives along with Sue Wilde and Alissa Davis on Friday, March 31.

Documents: Working on a redline of the constitution and will soon present to the senate

Governance: Has been working on the Academic Due Process (revising procedures) bill; also working on some items with Human Resources

Professional: Waiting to hear the status of department chair and faculty merit bills from the president's office and worked on graduate faculty bill

Membership: most elections are done (waiting on two departments); also, created an electronic version of the committee preference form that is completed during the split senate meeting—she will send it earlier to current senators so that committees can be planned sooner. She has received information for university standing committee openings and needs a faculty senator to serve on the HLC Accreditation Committee. She will obtain the charge and send it out later this week.

Announcements:

Hatcher: Flyers for donations for the Women's Shelter have been sent out; they will be revised with the locations of the donation boxes and resent.

Adjournment: Chair Louie called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Taylor. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12 from 3-5 p.m. in the Redhawks Room of the University Center.