

MUW Faculty Senate Minutes
January 12, 2024
Via Zoom

Senators in attendance: Stephen Meek, Holly Krogh, Susan Hurley, Bronwyn Teague, Leslie Stratyner, Chanley Rainey, Melissa Smith, Kristy Alpe, Lestonio Yarbrough, Shana Lenoir, Elizabeth Fountain, Lindsay Kemp, Jianwen Crump, Chad Murphy, Jared Quist, Rose Ford

Absent: Shyam Heda, Carol Dowdy

Guest: Brian Burnes

1. Meeting called to order at 12:24 p.m. due to campus power outage.
2. November minutes approved following a motion by Bronwyn Teague and second by Melissa Smith
3. Committees & Reports
 - a. Administrative Council (no meeting)
 - b. Meeting with the President: Faculty Senate's amended constitution was approved by President Miller on January 9, 2024.
 - c. Academic Council (no meeting)
 - d. PIE Council (no meeting)
 - e. Funds A and B
 - i. A: \$3450 left for faculty travel awards
 - ii. B: \$1275 left for improving classroom teaching
 - f. Learning Management System Access Sub-Committee: Committee changes have been made. Chad Murphy is chairing the committee; Kristy Alpe is a member and one more is being sought.
4. Updates
 - a. New Senator: Jianwen Crump has replaced Catherine Cotton for SLP because Dr. Cotton is now interim chair for the department.
 - b. Senate Terms: Four senators' terms are up in April. Lestonio Yarbrough, Shana Lenoir, Leslie Stratyner, and Holly Krogh. Their deans will soon be contacted about holding elections.
 - c. Name Change: In December, local and state legislators expressed support for the name change. After Monday's name reveal, there has been some negative response related to an entry for the word "Brightwell" in the Urban Dictionary. Holly Krogh will ask President Miller about the status of current legislative support. She will also ask for a clear statement on the status of the name change because recent news reports and university communications have been inconsistent.
5. New Business
 - a. Paid parental leave: Senators reviewed the findings and recommendation on faculty parental leave at IHL institutions developed by an ad hoc committee for the United Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi (see Appendix) and presented by our guest who represented MUW on the committee. A motion was made by Chanley Rainey to approve the

resolution in support of the findings and recommendation of the ad hoc committee. The motion was seconded by Jianwen Crump and passed by vote.

- b. Academic Calendar: The 2024-2025 calendar has been approved. The fall semester is different with a full week off for Thanksgiving, a return to 2 days of class followed by 1 reading day. Final exams begin on a Thursday and continue through Wednesday. Most Senators were unaware of these changes being made last semester.

Dean Brock and the Provost shared some of the factors considered in the decision process: federal guidelines, adequate time needed for end-of-semester processes in the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, and the Student Success Center, retention of a mid-semester break, and acknowledgment that many students do not attend class Monday and Tuesday before the holiday, that a return to immediate exams is stressful and not ideal for performance, and that students can better enjoy a full week off.

Senators will bring departmental feedback to the February meeting where we may further discuss the possibility of proposing greater faculty or Senate representation on the Academic Calendar Committee.

- c. Faculty Member of the Year Award Process: To be discussed in February.
- 6. Other
 - a. Campus closed at 1:15 p.m. due to power outage.
 - 7. Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.