

MUW FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes: September 13, 2024

Present (Zoom): Kristy Alpe, Haley Bailey, Lynsey Baker, Ashley Chisolm, Jianwen Crump, Rose Ford, Ghanshyam “Shyam” Heda, Mary Helen Hawkins, Susan Hurley, Lindsay Kemp, T. Kris Lee, Steve Meek, Chad Murphy, Andrew Nguyen, Jared Quist, Chanley Rainey, Melissa Smith, Bronwyn Teague

None Absent.

1. President Chad Murphy called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.
2. Campus Police Overview - Chief Randy Vibrock

Chief Vibrock reported that are being put up around campus, primarily in places where students gather and at entry/exit points in residence halls—open to suggestions. Getting new police vehicles and hope to have them in use by Fall 2025—these will be more distinct. Campus PD is also welcoming a new hire: campus security officer. The CSO will allow officers to focus on patrolling on and the perimeter of campus. CSO primarily works evening and early morning, responsible for locking all campus buildings, and will allow us to bring back a shuttle service 8pm – 1am each day that campus is open. Our CSO has a military background and family ties to The W, with father who served on faculty for decades.

Chief Vibrock also encouraged faculty to always report and err on the side of reporting rather than worrying something doesn’t rise to the appropriate level.

Q&A:

Melissa Smith raised concerns about 11<sup>th</sup> street being basically limited to one-way traffic because of parking along the road. President Murphy added that there seems to be a car parked in front of the fire hydrant every day as well as people using the concrete area in front of Pohl Gym as a roundabout or alternative street. Vibrock confirmed that 11<sup>th</sup> is a city street and not a campus street; however, he did get city to paint part of the curb yellow to make clear that parking is not legal in that area. According to the city engineer, the city plans to restripe and surface that road, which will help. Our police do issue citations for cars parked in ways that create dangerous conditions and will contact Columbus PD in cases where they cannot issue citations themselves. Vibrock has been discussing problems with the area that people use as a roundabout or as an alt. street, asking Facilities Management about putting up some sort of barricade.

Shyam Heda asked how to handle several guest speakers coming into campus. Vibrock asked that faculty provide guest names, vehicle descriptions/tag #, and dates to the Campus PD (email to Chief Vibrock) whenever we have guests parking on campus.

3. Kossen Center Update - Dr. Marty Brock

Dr. Brock joined Senate to discuss the future of the Kossen Center for Teaching & Learning. The search for a permanent director will begin later this year, but in the meantime her capacity as Interim Director, Dr. Brock is trying to gather information about the support and services that faculty would like to see from the CTL moving forward. She asked the group for feedback on the spot and also encouraged folks to follow up with her directly if ideas came to them later, whether by email or in a one-on-one meeting.

Melissa Smith suggested that CTL be mindful of teaching schedules when deciding when to offer workshops and other PD. Kris Lee also echoed Dr. Smith’s concern that the quality of the videos that were shared for those who were unable to attend in person. Audio was often of poor quality and unedited livestreams of in-person meetings are sometimes difficult to watch/follow along with. Dr.

Smith also suggested offering alternative times for the same workshops. Ashley Chisolm also noted that faculty had sometimes had the experience of repeatedly making suggestions for speakers and topics that never came to fruition.

Melissa Smith asked whether the search would be internal or external, and Dr. Brock said she was unsure and also seeking information about what qualifications, background, or other criteria we would like to see in a future director. She has already met with the Council of Chairs to discuss their preferences for a permanent director.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from April

Ashley Chisolm moved that the minutes be amended to change “Old Business” to “Unfinished Business” and to eliminate secretary’s signature. With those amendments, minutes were approved (Melissa Smith/Kristy Alpe) unanimously.

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### a. Administrative Council Report – President Murphy

First-year numbers appear to be up and enrollment overall healthy, with good turnout at campus events thus far. He said that President Miller feels that the university is in good shape heading into the legislative session with the LEAP advocacy being undertaken by alumni and community members. Still, she believes we are likely to again see a bill asking IHL to identify three universities for closure and/or to merge MUW with MSU.

We are also likely to see Auditor Shad White continue to go after DEI initiatives and research connected with the state’s public universities, so it is also possible that we will see legislative activity on this front as well. Here too, the administration feels that our approach to DEI—community driven and with responsibilities dispersed across campus—leaves us in a good position.

The new Women’s College has a strong inaugural class of eighteen students and will have its first graduates this May because a number are seniors who had already taken some WGS courses.

David Brooking has requested that faculty organizing recruitment events use Slate so that Admissions and Enrollment are aware and can follow-up with students who attend.

##### b. Meeting with the President – President Murphy has a scheduled meeting with President Miller and will report back in Oct.

##### c. Academic Council - no meeting yet.

##### d. PIE - no report.

#### 6. New Business

##### a. Fund A and Faculty Foundation Funds – not available yet.

##### b. Faculty Development Committee

Jared Quist, Rose Ford, and Jianwen Crump volunteered to serve as the Faculty Senate’s 2024-2025 Faculty Development Committee. Reviews applications for Fund A and B Faculty Foundation Funds.

c. Traffic and Parking Committee

Mary Helen Hawkins and Bronwyn Teague volunteered to serve as Faculty Senate representatives. University-wide committee meets to hear traffic ticket appeals.

d. Hearing Panel Pool

Shyam Heda, Melissa Smith, Susan Hurley, Lynsey Baker, Mary Helen Hawkins, and Jared Quist volunteered. Grievance procedure for non-academic employees. In the event of grievance complaint, the president will select a chair and four members from the pool to hear the case.

e. DEI Council

Kris Lee volunteered. Dean of Students had requested one faculty representative to serve on the DEI Council.

f. Emeritus Faculty Working Group

Steve Meek, Shyam Heda, and Melissa Smith volunteered. Dr. Tollison had asked for faculty representative(s) to serve on the group that follows university guidelines for awarding emeritus status to retiring faculty. The group will be identifying and reaching out to faculty who may not have met previous criteria for the rank, like a nominating committee.

g. Faculty Salaries Committee

Dr. Tollison would have them meet in the fall semester to meet with Admin Council to develop criteria or a “manual” for what we want to learn this spring when we conduct a study to see where we stand currently in terms of how well existing faculty salaries reflect our values.

Faculty (Melissa Smith, Shyam Heda) requested additional information before volunteering, and President Murphy agreed to follow-up over email.

7. October, December, and March Meetings

Our regular Oct. meeting coincides with Fall Break; Dec. meeting conflicts with Commencement, and March meeting falls during Spring Break.

Decided to conduct Oct. business over email since no policy statements will be in review yet, with caveat that President Murphy may call a special session in the week following Fall Break if something comes up that requires discussion.

8. Advising

Andrew Nguyen brought to our attention that Student Success Center and other sources on campus, such as the Registrar’s Office, is advising readmitted students and that Dept. of Psychology and Family Sciences faculty feel that advising would be better for these students if readmitted students were sent back to their previous major advisors. Melissa Smith suggested that SSC might be asked to copy faculty advisors on any advising emails they send to students. President Murphy agreed to discuss these concerns with Dr. Tollison to see what university policy is and what should be happening/what can be done.

Shyam Heda expressed frustration with students receiving their RAP number from various sources and suggested it would be best if there was a strict procedure where students must first seek RAP # from their advisors, then navigators, then SSC or Registrar.

9. UFSA Letter Follow-Up

President Murphy thanked everyone for following up over email regarding the United Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi's letter to JSU President expressing concern over the treatment of Dr. Dawn McLin, a tenured professor and JSU Faculty Senate President. He reported that he had shared our concerns and informed UFSA that we would be happy to reconsider if new information came to light and will be interested in the progress of

10. Meeting adjourned (Kris Lee, Steve Meek) at 1:28 PM.

Suggested 2024-2025 Meeting Dates:

- November 8<sup>th</sup>
- December TBD (if needed)
- January 10<sup>th</sup> (if needed)
- February 14<sup>th</sup>
- March TBD
- April 11<sup>th</sup> (for installation of new senators and election of executive committee)