



Northwest Missouri State University
Report to Missouri Association of Faculty Senates
February, 2013

Recent developments with which Faculty Senate has been most concerned and/or involved include the following:

Faculty evaluations and student course evaluations: In AY 2010-11, an *ad hoc* committee on Faculty Evaluation was tasked by Senate with re-examining the systems for annual faculty evaluations and for student course evaluations. The committee proposed an extensive overhaul of both systems, and a pilot was run in Spring 2012. In Fall 2012, Faculty Senate approved the implementation of the new student course evaluations, and a faculty referendum was conducted that resulted in approval also of the new system for faculty evaluations. The new student course evaluations were implemented at the end of the Fall 2012 semester, and the new faculty evaluation system is being implemented in phases beginning Spring 2013.

Faculty Handbook revision: An *ad hoc* committee consisting of faculty and administrators is continuing the process (begun in AY 2011-12) of revising the *Faculty Handbook*. Revisions include the creation of a Senior Lecturer position, an arbitration/mediation requirement similar to that present in the *Staff Handbook*, and the new system for faculty evaluation (see above). The draft will be coming to Faculty Senate for review in March or April.

Freshman Seminar course redesign: Responding to recommendations from a University self-study conducted 2009-10, the Deans' Council recommended moving Freshman Seminar away from a major-specific format and, therefore, removing specific academic advisement as a major course component. The Provost in 2011-12 endorsed the recommendations. Subsequently, two faculty committees, comprised of more than twenty faculty from across the University, have collaborated on revision of the Freshman Seminar curriculum, and the proposal has been approved by the University Curriculum Committee and endorsed by the Deans and Chairs. Faculty Senate is scheduled to vote on the proposal in March.

Use of successfully completed classes to fulfill multiple requirements: In AY 2011-12, a proposal to allow students to use successfully completed courses to fulfill multiple academic requirements was written by the University Curriculum Committee, reviewed and discussed by Chairs and Deans, presented to Faculty Senate, subsequently discussed by academic departments, and then approved by vote of Faculty Senate. However, due to clerical error, the proposal was not put into practice. In December 2012 the proposal was re-discovered and has since become the center of an enthusiastic series of second-guesses and objections.

Business as usual: In the coming weeks, Faculty Senate or its committees or officers will be dealing with several standard Spring activities: Faculty Senate elections, faculty committee preferences for 2013-14, the Faculty Satisfaction Survey, Faculty Advisory Committee on Rank elections, and so forth.

Submitted by Faculty Senate President Wayne A. Chandler