

**Middle Georgia State University  
Faculty Affairs Committee  
January 26, 2024**

---

**(1) Call to Order**

**Chris Hornung** called for volunteers or nominees for the Committee chair for academic year 2024-2025.

**Kelly Whiddon** volunteered.

**Javan Frazier** motioned to close nominations.

- The motion **passed unanimously**.
- **Kelly Whiddon** was **unanimously approved** as the chair elect.

---

## (5) Old Business

### (A) Faculty Summer Salary

**Chris Hornung** shared with the Committee that the Provost is not inclined to restructure summer pay. The Provost feels that would put undue pressure on junior faculty to teach larger introductory classes so that the senior faculty could teach smaller, upper-level classes (which would keep junior faculty from doing as much research or faculty development as they could, which would impede their progress toward tenure and promotion).

**Amanda Funches** added that the Provost has indicated that this is the fairest system that he has seen in place across multiple institutions.

**Evaristus Obinyan** shared that in Criminal Justice, this would not be a consideration, because they have few enough faculty members that they must all teach everything.

- **Hornung** indicated that this may be a bigger concern for large departments like English, where there need to be many sections of 1101 and 1102.
- **Funches** agreed, adding that this was likely to be true of courses that appear in the core curriculum.

**Steven Wallace** pointed out that the current approach doesn't take into account that there are frequently multiple sections of the same course, where one course doesn't reach the same enrollment level as others. If there are three sections of the same course scheduled over the summer, and two courses are well over minimum enrollment but the third is just under (say, for an unpopular time slot), the department still has the overall enrollment levels to pay each faculty member the full amount.

- **Funches** noted that she and Dr. Jenks have the ability to approve any section for full payment. She indicated that faculty members should work closely with their chairs and their deans to seek such approval, especially for courses that improve campus presence.

**Wallace** moved that the Committee send a letter to the Senate to give everyone an announcement about this practice, because all faculty should know this practice exists. Sending an announcement to the Senate would mean that it would appear in the Senate minutes and all of the representatives could take the information back to their departments.

- **Obinyan** seconded the motion.
- The motion **passed unanimously**.

**Funches** will follow up with **Hornung** about language to send to the Senate; **Hornung** will share the language with the rest of the Committee before sending it to the Senate.

- **Camara** asked if the program could be opened after evaluations close (the last day of class).
- **McRae** responded that student check-out (where they stop checking their emails, etc.) after classes end has to be a concern.

**Annie Watson** asked if the program could be run at the beginning of the semester and gear it toward previous instructors, instead.

- **McRae** noted that this would miss students who are graduating.

**Wallace** noted his enthusiastic support of the Thank a Teacher program.

- **McRae** responded that in his time here, he has noticed that there is a ton of unrecognized, wonderful work carried out by the faculty, and he hopes that this program will acknowledge it.

**McRae** clarified that the piloting will take the form of professors sharing the link/QR code with their classes and reminding them about the program.

- **Hornung, Camara, Wallace, and Hagler** all volunteered to participate.

**Hornung** suggested that anyone else interested in participating email **McRae** directly.

**McRae** offered to prepare proposed timeframes for the program for the next meeting. He also reminded the Committee of the two other proposals for faculty recognition: (1) light refreshments for faculty members who earn promotion/tenure and (2) gatherings for faculty cohorts. The Provost has expressed support for the light refreshments. The gatherings option is currently under discussion; they are trying to determine if there is a foundation account that could fund it.

#### *(D) Faculty Awards*

**Chris Hornung** informed the committee that he is planning to begin soliciting nominations for faculty awards in mid-February (before the next Committee meeting). No other action is needed at this time.

---

#### **(6) Next Meeting**

The Committee's next meeting will be Friday, February 23 at 9:00 am on Microsoft Teams.

**(7) Adjourning**

**Javan Frazier** moved to adjourn the meeting.

- **Kelly Whiddon** and **Steven Wallace** seconded the motion.
  - The motion **passed unanimously**.
-