

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE CALLED MEETING
September 17, 2008
Approved by Faculty Senate

Members Present:

E. Evans, C Persaud, B Arnold, D Matthews, E Ngwang, M Hoque, F Misoc, M Henderson, H Stewart, C Ananonu and G Catchings

Dr. Catchings called the meeting to order at 1:00 with a quorum present. The purpose of the meeting was to address a letter from a faculty member concerning the process for hiring a Dean for the College of Arts and Science. There were two primary concerns:

There was no national search; the job was posted only on Valley's web site;

The position was posted as permanent rather than interim when a new president has not yet been appointed.

Dr. Catchings had done some preliminary research by asking for a copy of the job posting, which she shared with the group; she also reported her conversation with Dr. Osborne, whose initial response was that the search was "none of the faculty's concern" and that the faculty had "no right to tell him how to conduct the search or what to do." After some discussion, he seemed to entertain the notion that the position could be made interim.

Discussion among the members included several ideas about the process, all of which have to do with the Faculty Senate's goal of shared governance:

That the process thus far has been flawed;

That we are not sure what Mississippi Valley's policy is;

That we don't know whether Mississippi Valley's policy is in line with the IHL policy;

That we want to be sure that the Faculty Senate follows the policies—whatever they are.

Dr. Persaud made a motion that we in good faith write a letter to Dr. Osborne voicing our concern about the process for the hiring of the Dean in response to the letter from the concerned faculty member. The letter should be cc'd to Dr. Hudson, Dr. Meredith, and to Human Resources. Ben Arnold seconded the motion.

A point of order was called for more discussion. Suggestions included:

Following up with an inquiry. In the past, a committee would have been established to research and study the issue and then make recommendations. Since hiring a new Dean seems imminent, we agreed that there was no time to follow past precedents;

Using a collaborative stance to address the issue and do the research before we take any action;

Writing the letter is not a violation of policy;

Not cc'ing the letter to Dr. Meredith.

Drs. Catchings, Ngwang and Misoc volunteered to do the research to find MVSU's policy.

Dr. Persaud refused to rescind her motion, and the vote continued—5 to 4 in favor with 2 abstaining.

Dr. Persaud had to leave to go to class, and the meeting continued with some discussion about points of order concerning the motion.

A counter-motion was made by Dr. Ananou to amend the original motion so that the inquiry letter would not be sent to Dr. Meredith or to Dr. Hudson and only to Dr. Osborne. It was seconded by Dr. Hoque. There were 10 yeas. Dr. Catchings was to draft and send the letter.

Dr. Catchings reminded those present that we are a team and that we are professionals. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Submitted by:

Gwendolyn Catchings

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President