



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE  
UNIVERSITY.

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, 2/6/2024

**Time:** 11:00am

**Venue:** Virtual/Zoom Meeting

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**Attendees:** Dr. Candace Carter-Stevens, Dr. Mary Shepherd, Ms. LaTonzia Evans, Dr. Shelly Garlotte, Dr. Julius Ikenga, Dr. Zainul Abedin, Ms. Jocelyn Haley

### AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The online/Zoom meeting was called to order at 11:00am.

Dr. Candace Carter-Stevens facilitated meeting as Vice-President since Dr. Chetara Epps resigned her position as Faculty Senate President. (Dr. Stevens stated that she originally intended to resign her position like Dr. Epps but has stayed as Vice President.)

A discussion occurred regarding whether we had a quorum with (eventually) 6 Senators present. It was suggested by Dr. Ikenga that “half [of the members] plus one” additional member should be a quorum. There were concerns about non-attending Senators and/or lack of departmental representation. Dr. Ikenga suggested contacting department Chairs to request sending a representative. Dr. Garlotte will send a list of Senators present with their corresponding departments to determine which departments were not represented today.

Present:

Dr. Candace Carter-Stevens – Math and Computer Information Sciences

Dr. Mary Shepherd – Business

Ms. LaTonzia Evans – English and Foreign Languages

Dr. Shelly Garlotte – Fine Arts

Dr. Julius Ikenga – Natural Sciences

Dr. Zainul Abedin – Mass Communications

Ms. Jocelyn Haley – Library

(It was suggested that the departments of Social Work, Criminal Justice, and Education/HPER were not represented today.)

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### OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

President: | Vice President: Dr. Candace Carter-Stevens  
Secretary: Dr. Shelly Garlotte | Assistant Secretary: Dr. Mary Shepherd | Parliamentarian: Ms. LaTonzia Evans  
[www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu)

## **AGENDA ITEM #2: FACULTY SENATE VACANCIES**

To determine vacancies, current Offices/Officers were presented as follows:

Vice President – Dr. Candace Carter-Stevens  
Secretary – Dr. Shelly Garlotte  
Assistant Secretary – Dr. Mary Shepherd  
Parliamentarian – Ms. LaTonzia Evans

Vacant Offices include President (and possibly Vice President).

Dr. Ikenga suggested that Dr. Garlotte review past meeting minutes to determine Offices, filled and unfilled.

## **AGENDA ITEM #3: UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATES ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI ADOPTION PROPOSAL**

Dr. Ikenga acquired several documents from the Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi. He requested they be distributed to Senators for our perusal and discussion regarding possible adoption. Dr. Stevens emailed/forwarded two documents regarding Parental Leave for Senators to read and vote on at another meeting. (Dr. Stevens indicated a preference for distributing digital information instead of a meeting whenever possible and/or appropriate.)

An additional meeting to discuss and vote about content of emailed Parental Leave documents was called and agreed upon for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 11:00am.

## **AGENDA ITEM #4: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Stevens queried the Senators for any announcements. Dr. Garlotte asked if Dr. Stevens or Dr. Ikenga would be willing to serve as Faculty Senate President due to previous experience with Faculty Senate. It was suggested that their experience would be a valuable contribution and model for future Senators considering the office of FS President. Dr. Shepherd agreed, and several Senators expressed support for Dr. Stevens' potential Presidency. She agreed to pray about the decision.

## **AGENDA ITEM #5: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Determine what constitutes a quorum for Faculty Senate meetings.
2. Senators should read emailed documents "Parental Leave Committee Findings and Proposal.pdf" and "Resolution in Support of Parental Leave Policy Adoption Draft.docx" for discussion and voting at next meeting set for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 11:00am.
3. Dr. Garlotte will determine filled and unfilled Faculty Senate offices from past meeting minutes.
4. Dr. Garlotte will send a list of Senators present and their corresponding department to Stevens.