

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate, along with administration, have been discussing the pros and cons of having the full week off at Thanksgiving. Currently, 10 out of the 13 public universities in Missouri have the full week off. There are a lot of good points on each side of the issue.

Thanks to Dr. Toms, a new finals exam schedule has been created. This came at the request of faculty to make things less confusing for students. It will be implemented in Fall 2024.

Administration is looking into changing faculty contracts from 10 month to 9 month. We are the only college/university in the area (and Missouri) that has 10-month contracts. No one is quite sure how this started and if there is a reason behind it. This potential change will help with recruitment and faculty morale.

After 10+ years of work, the faculty has an Intellectual Property Policy ready for the Board to (hopefully) approve. I can personally attest to work being done on this every month for at least the last 4 years. There have been many ad hoc committees, drafts, and meetings with administration and Husch-Blackwell. For the most part, the faculty is mainly excited for it to be done! Like any policy, there will still be an opportunity every 3 years for revisions.

Lastly, this will be my last Board of Governors meeting. Michael Beilfuss will be joining you all in June. Thank you for being so welcoming! I've enjoyed the experience.

Thank you,
Jean Coltharp
Faculty Senate President
Associate Professor, Mathematics