
Members Present – M. Arndt, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, N. Brooks, L. Burriss, W. Canak, L. Clark, L. Craig-Unkefer, T. Farwell, M. Fleming, M. Finch, S. Franklin, B. Freeman, J. Gray, C. Harris, J. Hawkins, B. Hinote, M. Hinz, R. Hoffman, T. Jurkanin, P. Kelly, A. Lutz, P. MacDougall, S. Mangrum, K. Mathis, J. McCormick, A. McCullough, K. McNulty, W. Means, J. Miller, D. Raffo, J. Reineke, K. Scherzer, B. Turnage, P. Wall, M. Weller, P. West-Osterfield, A. Williams

Members Absent – J. Belsky, M. Knight, D. Patterson, S. Roberts, C. Rosenmuller, C. Stephens

Members Excused – M. Deme, L. Dubek, G. Pisut, B. Rushlow, C. True

Additional Attendees – Lisa Rogers

Agenda

1. Roll call- the meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Prof. Scott Boyd. Prof. Boyd said that the painting of the senate chambers begins 11/12/13. He said the AV equipment purchased by the provost for the room was installed.
2. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the October 16, 2013 minutes.
3. Treasurers report
 - Travel: \$1600
 - General: \$1482.69
 - Foundation: \$407.16
4. Argos Training
 - Prof. Boyd introduced Lisa Rogers. Ms. Rogers provided a brief demonstration of the ARGOS dashboard. She said that senators have access to the dashboard at Evmaps.fsa.mtsu.edu. She said that the web version may still have some glitches at this point. Ms. Rogers said there will be more in-depth workshops on November 21 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and November 26 at 8:30 a.m. in the ITD training room in the telecom building. After the demonstration, a discussion followed regarding who was receiving access to the dashboard. It was said that the Faculty Senate has been asking for access to data regarding

several issues and sharing the dashboard was a way to share data with faculty.

5. United Campus Workers:

- Prof. Boyd updated the senate on President McPhee's response to the United Campus Workers. He said that President McPhee's response was emailed to the senate and also sent to the UCW.

6. Services Information Sheet for Advisers:

- Prof. Boyd said that he forwarded the suggestions from the October senate meeting to Dr. Bartel to include the services contact information on the web site and mobile app. The suggestions were received positively and are being acted upon.

7. Midterm Grade Reporting:

- Prof. Boyd said that the data from midterm grades was given to Deans and Chairs this past week. Prof. Boyd said that he was concerned that the data may reach the advisers too late to be effective this semester. He said that faculty have access to the data in Pipeline now and faculty do not need to wait for Chairs to get in touch. A question was asked if anyone has received an email about student progress. A discussion followed regarding what should be done to help students, who should be contacted, and what steps should be taken. It was said that students did seem appreciative of the midterm grade reporting system and that the notice helped them focus their studies. A discussion followed regarding timing of the alert.

8. Faculty Expectations Document:

- Prof. Boyd said that a writing group was going to be created to draft a document on agreed upon faculty expectations. He said he hoped the group would have representation from several colleges on campus. He said that the group could look at peer institutions and aspirational peer institutions for best practices. Prof. Boyd said the writing group should draft a document to be submitted to the Steering Committee and the Faculty Senate. A discussion followed regarding a previous conversation before the Senate about expectations for adjunct faculty. It was said that there should be some hierarchy to the document.

9. Standing Committee Reevaluation:

- Prof. Boyd said that Bill Canak has been approaching people to be on this committee. He said there would be a quick meeting after the senate meeting. Prof. Boyd requested volunteers from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

10. Library Tutoring:

- Prof. Boyd said that the library has requested feedback on tracking students who come to tutoring. Suzanne Mangrum said that the library was considering having students scan their ID cards when they report to tutoring. She said the data collected would be made available. She said the library was interested in learning what kind of information would be most useful to the faculty. A discussion followed regarding tracking which students from which high schools needed tutoring in certain areas. Prof. Boyd asked the senators to bring this topic to their constituents to gather feedback.

11. TAF Deadline:

- Prof. Boyd said the TAF deadline was approaching (January). He said the chair of the committee is Michael Arndt. Dr. Arndt said that the committee has less funds available than in the past, but they were going to do their best to protect discipline specific requests and master classrooms.

12. Shared Governance:

- Prof. Boyd said that senators should report back to Wendi when they have made their reports to their constituents. He said that if the report is issued by email, then Senators can copy her on the email.
- Prof. Boyd said that senators should feel free to bring issues to the Senate or members of the Steering Committee.

13. Student Success:

- Prof. Boyd said that there was going to be a short-term exploration of an attendance policy. He said he felt the administration would like to implement an attendance policy of some nature as it relates to student success. He said that administration has several studies that related attendance policies to student success. He said that faculty input would be sought before a policy was in place. A question was asked about the attendance policy in the student handbook. It was said that although there is a policy in the handbook, faculty do not have to require attendance. A question was asked about the impact of the attendance policy on grading. Some concern was expressed at having to bring this issue before constituents. Prof. Boyd said that senators could ask their constituents for feedback. A question was asked regarding the many best practices that have been presented to us. It was asked with which best practice should faculty be concerned. It was said that the administration is taking a wide approach. It was said that the administration is trying to act to help students succeed.

14. Funding:

- Prof. Boyd said that because the funding formula is on a 3 year cycle, MTSU may receive a little more money this year. He said that because it is a 3 year cycle, however, there is still a bit of concern.

15. TBR Faculty Sub-council Report

- Dr. Lutz said that the meeting was on October 18. He said the meeting opened with Chancellor Morgan's opening remarks and comments on the Drive to '55. Dr. Lutz said that a series of regional meetings would happen regarding the Drive to '55, but there would be no faculty representation. He said the sub-council wrote a letter to Mr. Randy Boyd asking for faculty representation at those meetings.
- Dr. Lutz said that more legislation "grounded in social issues" is to be expected. He said that faculty could look at Senate Bill 514 as an example of what to expect.
- Dr. Lutz said that Vice-Chancellor Tristan Denley spoke about achieving student success through the use of analytics and guided pathways. Dr. Lutz said that TBR was looking at pathways as a form of student GPS. He said the software they were examining was Degree Compass and Integrated Planning and Advising Services (IPAS). Dr. Lutz said that Vice-Chancellor was not taking a one-size fits all approach.

- Dr. Lutz said that Vice-Chancellor Denley was looking to fund research projects. He said there is money to fund 60 proposals to redesign high-enrollment high-DFW courses. He said that a second funding initiative was for 3 kinds of research projects: pure research projects, research projects addressing pedagogy, and research projects specifically devoted to student access and/or success.
- Dr. Lutz said that the pay recommendation by the Task Force on Adjunct Faculty has potentially significant budgetary implications. He said that the TBR is currently conducting a budget-impact study on this issue.
- Dr. Lutz said that the funding for the MOOCs experiments comes from THEC. He said the TBR focus was on understanding how the platforms work and could serve our needs. He said there were two projects currently underway.
- Dr. Lutz said a task force has been formed regarding the development of a longer-term lecturer appointment. He said that Dr. Bartel is on the task force. Dr. Lutz said that one possible outcome might be to offer select lecturers five-year rolling contracts.
- Dr. Lutz said that the Partnership Benefit Resolution has been sent to the Presidents' Council for their comments. He said the Presidents' Council has asked the Board staff to help identify avenues for TBR to pursue this further.

16. Motion to adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

Action items:

1. Prof. Boyd to follow up to see if chairs have contacted advisers with midterm data.
2. Prof. Boyd to send emails to create writing group for the faculty expectations document.
- 3.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia M. Farwell
2013-2014 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary