Members Present – Mark Abolins, Don Aliquo, Martha Balachandran, Tom Black, Alan Boehm, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Hyrum Carroll, Alphonse Carter, Laura Cochrane, John Dougan, Mark Doyle, Meredith Dye, Tricia Farwell, Michelle Finch, Paul Fischer, Sekou Franklin, Buddy Freeman, Justin Gardner, Joshua Harms, Jeannie Harrington, Joseph Hawkins, Robert Kalwinsky, Paul Kline, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Ann McCullough, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, Richard Pace, John Pennington, Michael Principe, Chris Quarto, Deana Raffo, Jason Reineke, Lauren Rudd, Kristi Shamburger, Michelle Stevens, Barbara Turnage, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent – Mamit Deme, Joey Gray, Shane Smith

Members Excused – Tina Hall, Yang Kim, Martha Weller, Kristen West

Non-Members Substituting for Regular Members – Xiaowei Shi, Nat Smith

Additional Attendees – (See minutes below)

Agenda

1. Roll call- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Tricia Farwell.

2. Tricia Farwell – Introductions.

3. Rick Sluder (Vice Provost for Student Success).
   Everything comes back to the classroom.
   MTSU designing greater outreach for students at risk.
   Grade in Hist 1020 is best predictor of graduation.

   687 students = $3.75 million budget.

   There is no one particular model for the new advising programs.
   Departments and colleges should use advisors the best way that fits their particular programs.

   EAB – Education Advisory Board (Washington, D.C., education research firm).
   MTSU is #3 in the country for use of EAB.
3. Deb Sells (Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic and Enrollment Services).

This year’s “purge” was 300 fewer students than last year.

Students should file their FAFSA form by March 1.  Some FAFSA files are randomly selected for further verification.  Verification must completed by July 1.  Verification procedures and criteria are mandated by the Federal Department of Education, not by MTSU.  If verification is complete, MTSU will guarantee non-purge.

Transfers were up 10%, which will compensate for losses due to Tennessee Promise.

MTSU has developed Facebook pages for individual classes (Fr, So, Jr, Sr).  Research indicates high school students are not using the web pages, but are going to Facebook for information about schools and programs.

Parents need to disconnect from students.

Students, on average, are applying to seven schools, and are doing multiple enrollments & orientations.


The Student Success Collaborative (SSC) is the campus portion of EAB.  Can set up batch mode e-mail for students.  Allows multiple points of contact.

Retention is up 5% this year.

Tina Johnson will deal with faculty mentoring programs.

Becky Cole will initiate a new faculty salary study.  Result will show salaries are low, but there are no funds are available to correct inequities.  New study will compare workloads at peer institutions as well as salaries.  Salary compression is an issue that needs to be addressed.

New accountant faculty are starting at $150,000 nationally, and MTSU simply cannot compete at that level.

R250 program:  MTSU would lose money if this plan were implemented.  MTSU is looking at R250 + high ACT scores for granting in-state tuition.

State has $800-million “rainy day” funds.
There needs to be more faculty lobbying of state legislatures, but there is apparently some confusion regarding direct contact between legislators and faculty members in that there are no rules against faculty members contacting legislators, but there are rules against lobbying.

5. President McPhee

The Faculty Senate president is a full member of the president cabinet, which meets weekly.

The Faculty Senate President’s Liaison Committee is also a venue for direct input.

Shared governance: policy consultation vs. day-to-day operations.

Areas of concentration for the next year.
* SACS reaccreditation on-site visit in March 2016.
Faye Johnson and Diana Rust are monitoring the QEP program.
* Quest for Student Success/Student Success Initiative.

There is a potential 5% budget cut next year.
Any budget increase will be tied to retention and graduation.

We admit 69% of all applicants, and the retention and graduation budget criteria are based strictly on initial enrollments.
There is no consideration that once some students are enrolled, they shouldn’t be here.

1.5% pay raise, but half is to be funded by the institution.
Pay raise will be across-the-board rather than merit pay raise.

Concerns have been expressed about Gov. Haslam’s plan to out-source various university functions.
Universities will have to make a case not to opt-in.

Question: Is there a University emergency action plan
Answer: An Emergency Action Plan already in place.

Question: Is there any consideration of changing the University’s name?
Answer: There is currently no effort or priority for changing the university’s name.

6. Marian Wilson (Assistant to the President for Equity and Compliance).

Discussion of issues related to Federal guidelines.

7. Peter Cunningham (Academic Affairs Administrative Fellow).

Discussion of the state high education funding formula.

MTSU serves more low-income students than any other school in TBR or UT
There is a new component of the funding formula: Under-prepared students (ACT < 18).

MTSU total grant money dropped from $30-million to $13-million to $11-million, primarily because of the loss of a children’s’ services grant.

The most valuable student at MTSU is a non-thesis master’s student.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Burriss
2015-2016 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary