

Members Present – Mark Abolins, Murat Arik, Martha Balachandran, Tom Black, Alan Boehm, Andy Brower, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Hyrum Carroll, Alphonse Carter, Laura Cochrane, John Dougan, Tricia Farwell, Michelle Finch, Paul Fischer, Sekou Franklin, Buddy Freeman, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Jeannie Harrington, Robert Kalwinsky, Paul Kline, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Ann McCullough, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, Richard Pace, John Pennington, Andrea Phillips (for Jason Reineke), Michael Principe, Chris Quarto, Deana Raffo, Lauren Rudd, Kristi Shamburger, Barbara Turnage, Martha Weller, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent – Don Aliquo, Mamit Deme, Joseph Hawkins, Yang Kim, Terry Quinn, Shane Smith, Michelle Stevens

Members Excused – Mark Doyle, Meredith Dye, Tina Hall, Joshua Harms, Jason Reineke, Kristen West

Additional Attendees – Nneka Norman-Gordon, Higher Education Resource Officer, Office of the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury.
Dianna Rust & Faye Johnson, SACS and QEP.

Agenda

Roll call- The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Tricia Farwell.

Meeting Minutes for the Sept. 14, 2015, meeting were approved with no changes.

Budget:

Foundation Account	\$453.16
General Operating:	\$1,254.42
Travel Account:	\$637.25

1. Presentation by Nneka Norman Gordon, director of the Office of the Higher Education Resource Officer. Presentation will be posted on the Senate web site.
2. Presentations by Dianna Rust and Fay Johnson on the Quality Enhancement Program and the upcoming SACS reaccreditation program.

MTSU has conducted a compliance audit in preparation for the March 29-31, 2016 site visit.

MTSU seems to be “in tune” with the 100+ SACS standards.

Documentation is the key. What have we done and what are we doing.

Reporting and visit timeline

A full compliance report was submitted in September 2015.

The report will be reviewed by an off-site committee.

A report will be report sent back to MTSU.

MTSU will respond to the report.

March 29-31 on-site review.

A visit report will be issued in 3-4 weeks.

MTSU will respond over Summer 2016.

The report and response will be reviewed in December 2016 and a report issued by SACS.

No one comes away from the report fully compliant, and it appears the site visit team may have some focused questions about:

Program review.

Faculty credentials (particularly non-terminal degree faculty).

Program coordination.

Dianna Rust discussed the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP).

Her handout will be posted don the Senate web page.

QEP report will be issued in February 2016.

3. Mary Martin: Standing Committees Committee Report

The full committee has been appointed, and a preliminary report will be ready in January.

4. Alfred Lutz introduced a resolution concerning the public accessibility of administrator (department chairs and higher) evaluations. Both the resolution and the state law that prompted the resolution are available on the Senate web site.

Question: How are evaluations currently conducted?

Answer: Different schools have different procedures. Some evaluations are conducted, some schools never evaluate senior administrators. There are also different levels of evaluations.

Question: What is done with the evaluations?

Answer: The used to be open for public inspection, but are no longer. Shared governance requires access to evaluations.

Question: Why was the change made?

Answer: State law doesn't say.

A committee from the Dean's Council is looking at the entire evaluation process.

A motion to table the resolution until it could be presented to each department faculty for comment. The motion passed by voice vote

5. Updates:

The faculty of the Jennings Jones College of Business elected Murat Arik as their college representative to the Senate.

Steering Committee Items

- * Current policy seems to be that classes with more than 48 students count for two.
- * A “Faculty Expectations” document and the Faculty Handbook have been under review for several years. Several questions have arisen concerning the relationship of these documents to faculty contracts, faculty policies, etc. These items will require further review from multiple levels of the administration.
- * Discussions with the MTSU Foundation regarding teaching awards are moving forward.
- * The Faculty Senate web site has been redesigned.
- * The reclassification of the Senate administrative position has been approved.

6. TBR Sub-council Report: The next meeting of the TBR Sub-Council will be Friday, Oct, 23, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Burriss
2015-2016 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary