

Faculty Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 14, 2015  
MTSU Faculty Senate Chambers

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**Members Present** – Mark Abolins, Don Aliquo, Martha Balachandran, Larry Burriss, Hyrum Carroll, Laura Cochrane, John Dougan, Mark Doyle, Tricia Farwell, Michelle Finch, Paul Fischer, Sekou Franklin, Buddy Freeman, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Tina Hall, Joshua Harms, Jeannie Harrington, Robert Kalwinsky, Yang Kim, Paul Kline, Alfred Lutz, Mary Martin, Ann McCullough, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, Richard Pace, John Pennington, Andrea Phillips (for Jason Reineke), Terry Quinn, Deana Raffo, Lauren Rudd, Kristi Shamburger, Barbara Turnage, Martha Weller, Kristen West, Zhifu Yang

**Members Absent** – Tom Black, Alphonse Carter, Mamit Deme, Joseph Hawkins, Michael Principe, Chris Quarto, Shane Smith, Michelle Stevens,

**Members Excused** – Alan Boehm, William Canak, Meredith Dye, Preston MacDougall, Jason Reineke

**Additional Attendees** – Dr. Brad Bartel, MTSU Provost  
Dr. Tristan Denley, TBR Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Mr. Philip Voorhees, TBR ADA and Assistive Technology Specialist

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**Agenda**

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

Meeting Minutes for the May 4, 2015, meeting (the last for the 2014/1015 academic year) were approved with no changes.

**Budget:**

Foundation Account	\$451.16
General Operating:	\$2,099.23
Travel Account:	\$1,600.00

\* Dr. Denley and Mr. Voorhees discussed the THEC Accessibility Task Force mandated by the state legislature:

In Spring 2015 TBR formed an Accessibility Task Force. Details are available on the TBR Academic Affairs Accessibility Initiative web site (<https://www.tbr.edu/academics/accessibility-initiative> ).

Until now emphasis has been on accommodation. Emphasis now is on accessibility.

The goal is to make “More material more accessible to more students more often.”  
However, this does not mean that if material is not accessible

Tennessee has 1-million students in 8,000 classes. Half of those are in 30 courses. These courses should be accessible.

Each campus will have a course coordinator, and by the end of October 1,000 people across the system will be trained in details of providing accessibility.

Question: Are there states that we can use as a model?

Answer: California. Georgia

Question: Are there differences in disciplines

Answer: Yes. The heavier a discipline is in text, the easier it is to adopt/adapt. Different disciplines will have to make different adoptions. However, taking down material because it is not easily accessible makes less material available for everyone.

Question: What about non-discipline areas

Answer: Those are more challenging, but will be addressed

Question: Who do we contact for more information?

Answer: Philip Voorhees at TBR.

Question: Does audio/visual material have to have an audio and visual description?

Answer: It is not necessarily unusable if it does not have an “accessibility track.” The question is, as a system can we make more material available?

Question: The MTSU Library staff has said they will not transfer old VHS tapes to DVD. What can be done if the tapes are still relevant to course content?

Answer: There is legal opinion that VHS can now be transferred to DVD under the Fair Use Doctrine.

Question: What happens next?

Answer: We are not going to sit where they are, but the changes will not be top (TBR) down.

Question: How are we going to do this? I don’t have time to make everything accessible.

Answer: We are investigating how the scale of the system can allow the faculty to get done what they need to get done.

Question: Will student advising be included in this initiative?

Answer: Yes, it needs to be done, but there is currently not a technology infrastructure to take care of this across the system

Question: What if a site by its very nature is not accessible (e.g., live streaming)?

Answer: Sometimes that will happen. We will look for accessibility, but it may not be there.

Question: What about third party scoring? Are faculty liable if the data get out?

Answer: Contracts have to be written so as not to have that FERPA issues.

Question: What kind of data do we have regarding numbers of students needing some form of accessibility?

Answer: We (TBR) will have to send you the numbers. It is a goodly number. Average is 10% of the student population.

\* Mary Martin will lead sub-committee to look at standing committee vacancies and what can be done to improve membership on committees.

\* Phase 1 EAB SSC (advising software) will be in November. Phase 2 will be in Spring 2016.

\* Senate bylaw changes were submitted to the faculty, and approved (174 faculty voting, 147 approved). A motion was made and seconded to approve the vote. Passed unanimously.

\* A Forrest Hall renaming committee being formed, and names for the committee have been sent from the Senate. Derek Frisbee was appointed since he is a vet, has been on a number of historical committees, and was on a previous Forrest Hall name committee. There should be a naming recommendation in April.

Question: Why will it take until April for a recommendation?

Answer: We want a study, not a knee-jerk reaction

Question: Was his appointment a “strategic” decision

Answer: No. He has a voice with a number of constituencies

Question: Will there be a formal report?

Answer: Yes, and the Senate will request a copy of the report.

Question: Can we know who is involved in the discussions?

Answer: Yes

\* Tricia Farwell and Mary Martin attended the Tennessee University Faculty Senates meeting, and reported we are in a much better position than other TBR schools.

At least one school

Is developing a new faculty handbook

Is developing a new office hour policy

Is generating summary evaluation of administrators, since evaluations were recently declared to be personal information not subject to the Tennessee Open Records Act.

Question: What happens to all of the reports we do (workload, etc.)

Answer: President Farwell said she will check. However, we do know that the faculty salary study is going forward.

\* Alfred Lutz (TBR Sub-Council): No report. The next meeting is in October

\* Question: How much revenue is being generated by new parking policy of charging visitors \$2 for a parking permit? What are our peer institutions doing?

Answer: President Farwell said she will look into this.

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