

Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2016
MTSU Faculty Senate Chambers

Members Present – Mark Abolins, , Murat Arik, Martha Balachandran, Tom Black, Alan Boehm, Andrew Brower, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Alphonse Carter, Laura Cochrane, John Dougan, Mark Doyle, Tricia Farwell, Michelle Finch, Paul Fischer, Buddy Freeman, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Tina Hall, Joshua Harms, Jeannie Harrington, Joseph Hawkins, Robert Kalwinsky, Paul Kline, Alfred Lutz, Mary Martin, Ann McCullough, John Pennington, Michael Principe, Chris Quarto, Terry Quinn, Deana Raffo, Jason Reineke, Kristi Shamburger, Barbara Turnage, Martha Weller, Kristen West, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent – Don Aliquo, Hyrum Carroll, Mamit Deme, Meredith Dye, Yang Kim, Preston MacDougall, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, Richard Pace, Lauren Rudd, Shane Smith, Michelle Stevens,

Members Excused – Sekou Franklin, ,

The March 14, 2016 meeting of the MTSU Faculty Senate was called to order by President Tricia Farwell.

Dr. Jackie Eller, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, spoke to the Senate.

- * MTSU will begin a new graduate student commencement on Friday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Murphy Center.

The ceremony will provide more recognition than simply reading names.

Career achievement award winners will be speakers which in the future will be in May and December.

Doctoral students will be recognized with a 75 word abstract of their dissertation.

Master's students will be recognized by program.

The ceremony is expected to last approximately 90 minutes.

There are expected to be some 400 students participating, including 27 doctoral hoodings.

Some concern has been expressed about having the ceremony at 3:30, since many family members and friends may not be able to attend. There is discussion of changing future ceremonies to 6:00 p.m.

- * Campus Research

Dr. Eller provided a handout which will be posted on the faculty Senate web site.

There is an on-going national-level discussion concerning the teacher/scholar model in higher education.

The new Tennessee FOCUS act may be an opportunity to recognize difference between the two.

A research master plan being developed

Question: Should unfunded grant proposals be counted as research?
Different departments have different standards

The graduate school is trying to allocate graduate students to new faculty as part of the employment package, but budget concerns may delay this process.

There are new federal guidelines for Institutional review Boards (IRB), which has led to some confusion regarding IRB policies and procedures.
Dr. Moses Prabu is a new staff member devoted to IRB issues.

Dissertation/thesis format outlines are online

Chad Wilkins, a representative of Textbook Brokers, addressed various programs related to textbook pricing, and provided a PowerPoint that is available on the Faculty Senate web site.

Updates

1. Treasurer's report

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| Travel | \$363.75 |
| General Operating | \$690.15 |
| Foundation | \$463.16 |
2. A friendly amendment was offered for the "D2L resolution": D2L will be available five days before until 10 days after classes begin. Passed by voice vote.
3. Mary Martin offered the Committee on University Standing Committees revisions, which are available on the Faculty Senate web site. Senators will take the revisions back to their respective departments for discussion and report back to the Senate at the April meeting.
4. TBR Academic Affairs Sub-Council report (Alfred Lutz)

- * In light of the new FOCUS act and SACS accreditation standards regarding faculty control of the curriculum, the TBR Faculty Sub-Council will remain part of TBR
- * Each of the new boards will have a voting faculty member who will be appointed for a 2-year term.

News business

1. A “guns on campus” resolution (available on the faculty Senate web site) was offered by Alan Boehm. Passed by a voice vote.
2. A petition was offered regarding the removal of trees on campus, and proposing the reestablishment of the Campus Landscape Committee.
Sent to Mary Martin’s committee on committees
3. Requests for Faculty Senate exploration of pending legislative proposals:
 - a. Regarding HB 2414 and SB 2387 (Requiring students in Tennessee public schools and universities to use the restrooms and locker rooms of their birth sex): Joey Gray will form committee to study these bills.
 - b. Regarding HB 2006 and SB 1902 (Limiting spending by the University of Tennessee on diversity, multicultural, or sustainability programs to \$2,500,000 per year). No action taken.

Announcements:

- * Some departments still need replacement senators
- * The Faculty Senate has been asked to submit names to campus committees dealing with the new FOCUS Act.
- * Need names to review class evaluation software.
- * Election for President and recording Secretary will be in April.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Burriss
2015-2016 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary