

**Faculty Liaison Meeting
Academic Affairs Meeting
April 08, 2009**

Attended – M. Balachandran, D. Belcher, L. Burris, J. Cain, J. Dowdy, C. Higgins, N. Kelker, A. Lutz, M. Martin, H.S. Means, K. Rushlow, K. Smith, S. Taylor, L. Warise

Excused -

Absent – B. Haskew,

Also attended – D. Miller, K. Gebert, M. Boyle, L. Lea, J. Bales, J. Cothorn, Johnson

I. Comments from President McPhee.

A. I am here to listen. Dr. Johnson will be taking notes

1. Tension is building between Lutz/faculty and McPhee. Our intent is to try and see if we can figure out how to set all aside and work to get through the rest of process.

a) We need each other. Comments come in all the time: There is serious fear...don't trust the decision process. We need to appear that we are working together and that information is being heard.

b) McPhee: Students conspired with newspapers and TV stations and had hidden microphones. This is creating a bad environment from a lot of different directions. We have to be open and civil. The perceptions at large are disturbing and

c) Perceptions and concerns are often with oversight committee report and data is totally incorrect.//Response to concerns included re-working some of the data to work towards correct information

d) Facts – we must cut \$19M from the budget; all the recommendations to do not add up to anything close to this.

e) Dr. McPhee has collected information, met with all requesters, read all emails and inputs, and the negative response has been hurtful. I have no options and have to work through this process.

2. Since we are repositioning – this initiated a different process which was very compressed. Faculty are looking for a clearly stated role in the context of the new process.

a) Some of our institutions are getting a “free walk” because their process is hidden and ours is transparent

b) We needed to consider everything and yet filter appropriately

3. Why were faculty senate not mentioned in the faculty reduction line?

4. The legislature is trying to take all graduate programs away from MTSU.

5. There is a desire to merge Higher Ed governance next year.

6. There will be information soon about how to use stimulus dollars; this will affect our decisions.

7. As we hear from board about tuition and enrollment, those factors will provide some mitigation of the severity of the cuts.

8. WE have to look at how a university should be look in the 21st century and provides strategic planning.

II. Adjournment

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