



Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2014, 4:30 PM
MTSU BAS 126

Members Present – S. Boyd, J. Brickey, N. Brooks, L. Burriss, H. Carroll, L. Clark, L. Dubek, T. Farwell, M. Finch, M. Fleming, S. Franklin, B. Freeman, C. Harris, J. Hawkins, B. Hinote, M. Hinz, R. Hoffman, T. Jurkanin, R. Kalwinsky, M. Knight, A. Lutz, P. MacDougall, S. Mangrum, J. McCormick, A. McCullough, W. Means, D. Patterson, G. Pisut, D. Raffo, J. Reineke, C. Rosenmuller, K. Scherzer, C. True, B. Turnage, P. Wall, P. West-Osterfield, A. Williams

Members Absent – J. Belsky, J. Miller, S. Roberts, C. Stephens

Members Excused – M. Arndt, W. Canak, L. Craig-Unkefer, M. Deme, J. Gray, P. Kelly, K. Mathis, B. Rushlow, M. Weller

Agenda

1. Roll call- The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Prof. Scott Boyd.
2. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the March 17, 2013 minutes.
3. Treasurers report
 - TUFS Travel: \$1600.00
 - General: \$ 665.04
 - Foundation: \$ 417.16
4. QEP Presentation-Prof. Boyd introduced Dianna Rust who was invited to speak to the senate regarding the QEP process. Dr. Rust said that the first QEP was the experiential learning program. She said that SACS will be at MTSU in 2016. She said there a committee has been formed with representatives from across the university that is charged with identifying the QEP topic and creating sub-committees. Dr. Rust said the report is due to SACS by November 2015. If the QEP is approved, MTSU will be committed to it for at least 5 years. She said the QEP website is active and accepting comments. She said that focus groups were conducted with students. She said the committee's goal was to have the topic finalized by Fall. A question was asked regarding how many people participated in the survey. Dr. Rust said that she didn't have the exact numbers but she thought it was approximately 20% faculty, staff and administration and 8% students. A question was asked if there were any topics that were starting to

emerge as leaders. Dr. Rust said she just received the numbers, but it looked like the Passport to Learning program was not very popular. She said that the connecting college to career experience seemed popular as did expanding EXL to lower division courses. She said that all the information will be presented on the QEP website. She said those interested in participating should contact her.

5. Town Hall-Prof. Boyd said that the President's office had sent out emails regarding the Town Hall meetings scheduled for April 15, 16 and 17. He encouraged faculty to attend these meetings to provide feedback and ask questions regarding the Quest for Student Success document. He said there seemed to be some concern regarding the change in advising. Prof. Boyd said that the professional advisers were available to take care of the mechanical aspects of advising (such as filing paperwork) and were to work in conjunction with the faculty to make sure students were progressing in their degrees. A question was asked regarding how to report feedback. Prof. Boyd said that the Town Hall was a good opportunity. He also said that faculty could email him, their dean and/or their chair. It was said that some faculty found the changes problematic and that there was some concern regarding cost. It was said that there was concern that this was taking the responsibility for student success away from the students. It was said that there might be tension developing between faculty and professional advisers. Along with this possible tension, there was concern that professional advisers may have a conflict of interest if they are expected to keep graduation rates up. It was said that there was some concern that students would not come to faculty for guidance until late in their academic progress. Prof. Boyd said that the document regarding roles and responsibilities is in draft form and will be revised. It was proposed that there be a wording change from "professional advisers" to "full-time advisers" to avoid ambiguity. A concern was expressed that the money to hire the new advisers was coming from faculty lines. Prof. Boyd said the plan was to bring the adviser-student ratio to 300 to 1. A question was asked if advisers were going to be given offices when there are faculty who currently do not have offices. A question was asked regarding the timing of the hires. Prof. Boyd said that he believed the administration wanted the advisers on campus for the fall. It was said that there was no discussion of student athlete advising in the new plan.
6. Legislators Meeting-The meeting is set for April 28th at 3:30. Prof. Boyd said that all should plan to attend or send a representative in their place. Also, incoming senators have been invited to attend.
7. Faculty Expectations Document-Prof. Boyd said that this is currently being revised to be more philosophical in nature. He said it should be to the senate soon. He said that there was some push to require a higher minimum number of office hours than proposed. A question was asked if this document would apply to Full-Time Temps as well. Prof. Boyd said that there will be a statement in the document about offices needing to be provided if office hours were required of the faculty member.

8. Standing Committees-Dr. Hinote said that Dr. Canak hoped to have the report ready by the end of the semester.
9. Committee Membership-Prof. Boyd said that some of the openings on standing committees have been filled in response to Wendi Watts' emails. He said there were still some openings needing to be filled.
10. Attendance Policy Document- Prof. Boyd said no feedback has been received regarding this document other than a confirmation of receipt.
11. Budget-Prof. Boyd said that the budget was passed with no raises for state workers. He said that MTSU estimates a small positive growth in the budget. He said there were no reports regarding the TN Promise at this point.
12. Program Productivity Review-Prof. Boyd said that MTSU had the fewest number of low producing programs in the TBR system. He said the official count was 5, but there was a glitch in reporting which would bring MTSU to 4. He said that all MTSU's programs were on the list for the first time (2 were newly started and 2 had spikes in graduation rates)
13. Senators' Reception-Prof. Boyd said the new senator's reception was scheduled for May 5th at 3:45 p.m. He said that President McPhee will be joining the senate meeting on that day as well.
14. New Business: It was said that an article in *The Tennessean* quoted the head of the athletic department regarding needing upgrades to the facilities. It was said that the senate should follow up on the promise by the athletic department that they would make their budget available to the senate. It was suggested that seeing the athletic budget in connection with the university budget may also be helpful. It was suggested that information on how much moving to the new conference aided in university recruitment.
15. Elections-Tricia M. Farwell was nominated to be President Elect and Larry Burriss was nominated to be Recording Secretary. A vote was conducted. Both were elected to their respective offices.
16. Meeting adjourned 5:40 p.m.

Action Items:

1. Prof. Boyd to follow up with athletics regarding budget

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia M. Farwell
2013-2014 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary
Approved 05/05/14