The faculty Senate Steering Committee met April 6, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., in the faculty Senate Chambers.


Members Absent: Tom Black, John Dougan

The following items will be reviewed/discussed at the next Faculty Senate meeting:

1. Faculty Suspension/AAUP
   * A faculty suspension at the University of Delaware has raised due process issue.
   * The Senate will appoint an ad hoc committee to look into MTSU faculty suspension policies.

2. Bylaws draft
   * Trish Farwell: Should the Senate sponsor a workshop on accessibility?
   * Changes in rules concerning “access to facilities” to “access to information.”
   * Discussion concerning succeeding terms for TBR Sub-Council representative.

3. AAUP financial report
   * Is MTSU appearing in the reports? If not, why not?

4. Poll of student opinions re scheduling
   * Under IRB review.

5. TUFS Discussion Items
   * 94 education topics before the legislature, only 12 dealt with higher education, and most of those probably won’t pass.
   * Budget: The state funding formula does not seem to recognize realities of budget needs.
   * UT is considering looking at productivity relative to post-tenure review.
   * Does state control of the budget insure effective management?
   * “Guns on campus” is a “disturbing” issue.
   * Who determines “fitness for duty”?
   * Will Partners for Health issues result in higher premiums?
* Book bundling may violate a 2008 act that prohibits bundling because it interferes with student choice.

6. Maintenance
   * How does building maintenance (or lack of maintenance) impact health?
   * Are buildings becoming unsafe and unhealthy because of deferred maintenance? How many buildings? What are the issues?

7. Quest for Student Success
   * Rick Sluder is very encouraged about retention.

8. Standing Committee Staffing
   * Progress being made.

9. Fitness for Duty Policy Considerations
   * Who decides if someone is “fit for duty”?

10. Merit pay
    * Numerous issues need to be studied before a plan is implemented.
    * Do we need merit pay if everyone is so far behind in base pay?

11. COIA
    Is there support for a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletic?

12. Updates
    * Lecturer position is still under review.
    * Healthcare premiums are probably going to go up.
    * Mike Krause – Speak to the Senate in May.
    * Bud Fischer, dean, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, will speak to the April meeting.
    * Alfred Lutz, TBR Sub-Council
      + Discussion of Jackson State Community College president’s remarks concerning tenure.
      + Policy changes that are made at the sub-council level, and then modified at a higher level will now come back down to the appropriate sub-council for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.