
Members Present

M. Arndt, M. Baggarly, C. Beauchamp, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, T. Brinhaupt, K. Butler, R. Butler, R. Clark, C. Cooper, W. Cribb, K. Darby, J. Dooley, J. Dowdy, L. Dubek, P. Fischer, B. Freeman, C. Frost, C. Harris, R. Henderson, R. Hoffman, Z. Khan, A. Lutz, J. Maynor, T. Perry, M. Rice, J. Rich, L. Selva, S. Taylor, M. Weller, D. Winborn, G. Zlotky

Members Absent

S. Daugherty

Members Excused

F. Amey, N. Callender, L. Fisher, T. Greer, R. Heinrich, W. Ilsley, P. Kelly, R. McBride, H.W. Means, K. Nofsinger, P. Oliver, S. Rawls, C. Stephens, P. Wall, B. Wallace

Additional Attendees

The Faculty Senate Retreat convened at 8:55 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25th in the Senate chambers. Senate President Warner Cribb introduced guests: President, Dr. Sidney McPhee and Provost, Dr. Brad Bartel.

Dr. McPhee asked Senate members to reflect on and share their thoughts/concerns on the upcoming 10-11 AY. Specifically, he encouraged questions about the new THEC formula for allocating funding, and implications of the Complete College Tennessee Act 2010 (THEC "Public Agenda") for MTSU. He emphasized the importance of speaking to issues that impact MTSU.

The new Public Policy Agenda represents a shift in policy. Dr. McPhee noted several key concerns with the new funding formula:

- *Approval of doctoral programs seems to favor for profit and private institutions

- *New formula favors bachelors (with a research emphasis) and doctoral programs

MTSU is currently at the Carnegie Masters Classification. 70% of MTSU's student population are first generation college students. MTSU's allocation from the state will drop from 100 million to 69 million dollars in the 2011-2012 AY. Dr. McPhee asked that he and Dr. Bartel be sent

ideas/suggestions for how to position and advance MTSU for success given the current economic reality. Discussion generated the following ideas:

The voices of MTSU students and parents, and alumni need to be heard in the General Assembly

There is a need for ways to support research endeavors internally which distinguishes MTSU from private/for profit programs

Encourage faculty (multidisciplinary) collaborative teaching - creates value added experiences

Social networking with alumni

Highlight computer sciences

Continue to emphasize STEM

Provost Bartel addressed the Senate beginning with noting the addition of new staff in the Provost's office. He shared his desire that the Provost's office be centered on meeting the needs of faculty. Dr. Bartel shared several strategies for consideration in response to the new funding formula.

Increase MTSU's doctoral production to equal ETSU. MTSU currently awards about 20-24 doctoral degrees compared to 75 at ETSU. The Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) is currently at the TBR level of review now. A doctorate in social work might be another possibility. Facilities need to be modernized (i.e. a new science building) to support research.

Increase out of state student as well as international (undergraduate and graduate) student enrollment.

A new enrollment management person has been hired. We need to be intentional in where we place our emphasis – programs, research, workload - so that it showcases our distinctiveness.

Dr. Bartel plans to visit each department this fall. He also announced plans for open door sessions with the Provost every Thursday from 10-1130 in his office – Cope 111

Dr. **Deb Sells**, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, distributed copies of the Leadership Council Sub-group final report on Admissions, Retention and Graduation. Dr. Sells addressed the report's findings within the context of the new funding formula guidelines.

Enrollment for the 2010-2011 AY is up about 3-4%. However, graduation rates, not enrollment will increase funding with the new formula. MTSU's graduation rate is about 52%. Points are also awarded for progression (based on number of credits earned) and 6 year graduation rate.

Freshman CUSTOMS data with the Fall 2010 class revealed that 86% of students think they will graduate in 4 years. Only 13% of freshman students will graduate from MTSU in the major they started in.

Dr. Sells presented several conclusions/recommendations from the report to improve retention and graduation.

- The importance of advising

- Reporting midterm grades to students

- Creating a Sophomore Experience that emphasizes connecting to the academic community (i.e. through honors courses, study abroad, band/music ensembles, EXL/Service Learning courses)

Dr. Sells requested that the Senate discuss and respond to the report.