
Members Present – M. Arndt, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, T. Brinthaup, N. Brooks, L. Burriss, N. Callender, B. Canak, L. Clark, R. Clark, C. Cooper, L. Craig-Unkefer, K. Darby, L. Dubek, T. Farwell, M. Fleming, G. Freeman, C. Harris, R. Hoffman, P. Kelly, M. Knight, C. Li, A. Lutz, S. Mangrum, J. Maynor, J. McCormick, A. McCullough, W. Means, F. Miyakawa, K. N. Nofsinger, D. Patterson, S. Roberts, C. Rosenmuller, B. Rushlow, L. Selva, C. Stephens, C. True, J. Wasik, M. Weller, P. West Osterfield, A. Williams, D. Winborn, G. Zlotky

Members Absent –K. Mathis, M. Nichols, G. Pisut,

Members Excused – C. Beauchamp, M. Hinz, P. Wall

Additional Attendees – B. Bartel (Provost), S. McPhee (President), A. Oppmann (Associate VP Marketing and Communication), B. Petryshak (Vice President of Information Technology)

Agenda

1. Michael Arndt, Faculty Senate President: He welcomed the Senators and introduced Deb Sells.
2. Deb Sells, VP Student Affairs: She shared enrollment numbers as of August 21, 2012 via a handout. Overall enrollment is down. Following reenrollment of those recently purged, enrollment is expected to be down by approximately 4%. She shared how the mindset towards the time it takes to earn a degree at MTSU has shifted towards a four year program. She shares with families that time-on-task and time-on-campus is very important for student success. Academic and social connectedness is important. She shared that living on campus is the primary national indicator of which students will graduate. She expects low enrollment numbers across the State. The ability for students to work on campus was questioned, and Dr. Sells stated that the number of employment opportunities for students has diminished. She shares with students and parents that attending university is a full time job. Admissions is targeting freshmen and sophomores to begin relationships early. The number of applications for the fall semester was requested; however, Dr. Sells did not have those numbers.

3. Bruce Petryshak, VP Information Technology: Mr. Petryshak shared the creation of MTSU mobile apps. One app in development is geared towards assisting disabled students with campus navigation. Two students who participated in the program have recently been hired. A Mobility Summit will be held October 15-16. He presented the current state of the campus virtualization project. Approximately 580 virtualizations have been put in place to date. Virtualization of SPSS and CAD were discussed. A request for proposal (RFP) is being released to achieve better copy and print pricing. Specialty printing/plotting is not included in this request. An app being developed/tested by Austin Peay is said to predict with 90% accuracy the grade a student would make in a particular course based upon their academic history. It is also said to be capable of suggesting a course schedule. Austin Peay is testing the app for TBR. ITD should be able to assist a professor with their own devices being used for University business. A website where virtualized software are listed was requested. Mr. Petryshak encouraged faculty to store more information on the network as opposed to local storage. Network security is being increased. Photo IDs on class rosters will be available. Grants for teaching technology are to be provided. Automatic completion of Upper Division Forms was suggested. Cellular coverage on campus was discussed. Mr. Petryshak shared that MTSU's website is due for improvement. The current MTSU web is composed of 17,000 pages. He shared that this is too "heavy" and needs to be streamlined and made intuitive for students, especially first time/generation students. The ability of RaiderNet and Banner to reflect course substitutions for advising was questioned. The removal of old web pages/forms when new web pages/forms come online was highlighted.
4. Andrew Oppmann, Associate VP Marketing and Communication: He shared that the web was going to be crucial for MTSU's marketing. He stated that the web was the University's "front porch". Support will be provided for Departments to best present themselves on the web. He wants Departments to develop lists of their promotable works and people. MTSU Magazine has been revived. He is investigating how best to tell MTSU's story. Tennessee's Best is a current aspirational brand. True Blue was explained. He stated that several means were going to be used to market the University. Mr. Oppmann made a request for Faculty to participate with ProfNet.
5. Sidney McPhee, University President: He welcomed the Senate and thanked the Senate for having him. He highlighted the necessity of Senators to communicate with their colleagues the issues discussed by the Senate. He asked for cooperation between the Administration and the Faculty. He communicated his responsibility in the operation of the University. The Administration and the Senate have a plan for the upcoming year. Faculty involvement in policy matters is included in the plan. The role of Student Affairs in the business of Academic Affairs is to be investigated. Dr. McPhee discussed the financial management of the University. He stated that the University is audited by the State every year, and the University has been found to manage its finances successfully. He stated that enrollment is down for the first time in many years and that retention is a primary issue. He shared his disdain for the funding formula; however, the University must operate within it. He presented a proposal to the TBR to enhance faculty salaries for those below the market average; however, the current budget situation may prevent this. The issue of teaching being undervalued in lieu of research was

discussed. Dr. McPhee asked for feedback on this issue. A conversation regarding teaching space within the new science building being given only to those who bring in research funds was suggested. Dr. McPhee and Dr. Bartel were thanked for their encouragement of faculty within Liberal Arts to participate in research. The nonpolitical nature of the University was discussed. Dr. McPhee shared that he believes that the University has made its stance clear on diversity issues via the True Blue Pledge.

6. Brad Bartel, University Provost: Dr. Bartel shared the importance of recruitment of students and faculty. He shared his desire for more control over the constitution of the freshman class. Focus on students from other states is desired. A higher ACT standard is desired. An Ed.D. was recently approved. He is optimistic concerning graduate enrollment for the future. Dr. Bartel will ask every department to construct an enrollment/retention plan. Based upon a recent National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) study, the rigor of departments needs to increase. The Academic Map project is being put into place. This project will produce a 4-year graduation plan for students to follow. A bachelor degree in mechatronics is in the works. The Provost had requested an additional 3% tuition increase to cover new Tenure Track faculty positions. This would have added approximately 60 new faculty. He can't act on this until the enrollment numbers are finalized. Dr. Bartel listed several potential new degree programs. Noninstructional assignments will be reinstated. Little money is available for this. Dr. Bartel spoke of a mentoring program for students and faculty. He wants all departments to have mentoring programs. A 2.5% cost of living raise has been given. An additional longevity bonus may be announced by the President. Dr. Bartel highlighted the salary compression issue. He shared the reasons for hiring new faculty at higher pay and wants to bring equity to pay. He shared his desire to create a faculty meeting/dining space. Dr. Bartel shared his desire to have common sense workload assignments. Affordable child care on campus was addressed. The limitation on faculty pay as a percentage of overall salary was discussed. Dr. Bartel will investigate this. The policy regarding faculty providing paid consulting services was discussed.
7. Michael Arndt: Michael shared some takeaways from the Completion Academy. Completion maps and student learning communities were discussed. He presented the plan to split into four groups to discuss different aspects of the enrollment management plan.
8. Alfred Lutz, MTSU TBR Faculty Sub-Council representative: Alfred shared that Paula Short resigned her position. Faculty nominations for this position have been forwarded.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender
2012-2013 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: Gay Johnson, 9/10/12