Faculty Senate Retreat
08/18/2014

Bill Canak (Faculty Senate President)
Introduction
Issues for the coming year
  On-campus
    Quest for Student Success
    Course redesign
    Faculty expectations
    Role of faculty in community relations
    Promotion & tenure policies review
    FTT
    New doctoral programs
  Off-campus
    Budget issues
    Competition from other schools
    Demographics
    Demographics related to funding
    Faculty & the legislative process
Communication
  Senate D2L page has articles of interest
  Faculty Senate input to News & Public Affairs re MTSU homepage
By-law review
  The senate will make recommendations to the administration on changes to the
  standing committee structure.

Chris Brewer (Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Planning & Research)

Responsibilities
  National Survey of Student Engagement
  Various federal reports
College program reviews
  Local research projects
  Retention issues related to decreasing high school enrollments
Upcoming projects
  High school feedback report (back to feeder high schools)
  Monthly newsletter
Cost of education: Currently 70% from student / 30% from state
Dashboards (data available for access by faculty)
  Retention
  Student success
  Enrollment/degree
Major reason for non-return
  Life events
    Medical
    Family change
Drop in number of students is major driver of funding cuts
MTSU in better shape in retention than most other TBR schools
Jackie Eller (Interim Dean of the Graduate School/Interim Vice Provost for Research)

Grad applications are up
Grad admissions (acceptances) are up
Grad enrollment down slightly

Increased contact with MTSU seniors
Sept. 30 – grad fair
Increased recruiting with local companies
Seven accelerated bachelor-to-master programs

Stipends: Affordable Care Act & TBR restrictions
Trying to build more assistantships into grants
Proposal to exempt students from ACA restrictions

SACS: No one without grad status will be able to work in grad program
No such thing as “probationary grad status”

Adrienne Friedli (MTSU Office of Research Services)

Decrease in external grants due to economic downturn
195 grant proposals developed
Many schools MTSU size send out 400+
Partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory

No audit findings with grants & contract management (see handout page 2)

Undergraduate student funding

Brad Bartel (Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs)

Faculty development
Mentoring
85-92% of faculty up come up for P&T are successful
Monthly VPAA 2-hour seminar with new faculty

Course redesign project
Emphasis on DFW rate
Some departments are showing a 10-12% reductions in DFW

50% turnover in department chairs over last 2 years
Mentoring for chairs

Importance of interdepartmental research

Student success initiatives
Hired 50 new undergraduate academic advisors & created new office space
New advising software

We lose 30% of freshmen & 20% of sophomores

3% down from last fall
Every 1% drop is a $1.5 million budget drop
VPAA has already found all but approx. $1 million

New faculty rank/status: lecturer
   Teach only. No research. No service.
   3-year rolling contract
   Promotable without tenure
      Lecturer
      Senior lecturer
      Master lecturer
   Evaluated on teaching only
   Question to be addressed: relation between FTT & lecturer status

Sydney McPhee (President)

Tradition of faculty governance
Strong relationship between faculty & administration
Same goals: enhance learning in a caring environment

Senators have a role & a responsibility
Inform colleagues of information about discussions
Not a mouthpiece for the administration, but actively engaged as a conduit for information

Constructive engagement between administration & faculty senate

New challenges
Must consider external groups
   For-profits
   Extra scrutiny from externals

Reiterate commitment to work together to address challenges/opportunities
Without compromising principles

Challenges
   Student success.
      Academics and student success are number 1 priority
      State funding formula (based solely on student success) is dysfunctional
      Move graduation rate from 52% to 65%
      Continue to struggle with freshman & grad student retention
      Reduced number of non-returnees from 1,500 to 400
      May have to cut academic budget because previous cuts exempted academics

Impact of ACA on students
Congress is considering exempting students from ACA requirements

Need clarification regarding membership in professional organizations that contact legislators

Need further clarification on “employment” of students
   30-hour rule
   Scholarship students are not “employees”
   Grad students are employees
   Feds count MTSU at 6,000 employees, and penalty accrues after 1 violation

EAB advising software (EAB.COM)
   Link EAB to Pipeline class lists?

Need to link financial aid with retention

MTSU is number 2 in terms of success with funding formula

SACS: Year of record is next year (2016)

Enrollment is going in the right direction

Currently have 900 grad students. Goal is 1,500 grad students

Deb Sells (Vice President, Student Affairs)

Cell phone contact with students at “One Stop”
Role as “student” is a full-time job
15 credit hours per semester
Students taking less than 12 will have trouble with retention
Live on campus on at home leads to better retention
Limit part-time job to 15 hours or less per week
Allow 45 hours per week for all class activities (class, homework, etc.)

Faculty role with distressed/disturbed student
   Where is the line between distress/disturbance/danger?

Seems to be a little less parental involvement

Most freshmen are traditional
Transfers are more likely to be non-traditional

Academic misconduct goes through Academic Affairs, not Judicial Affairs

Faculty are considered “reporting officials,” so have to report violence or suspected violence

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

Financial report
General Operating - $3,300 (does not include costs of retreat)
Travel - $699.06
Foundation - $425.16

Dianna Rust

Discussion of SAC Reaffirmation
  Off-Site Peer Review – Nov. 3-6, 2015
  On-Site Peer review – March 29-31, 2016

Jim Beebe (Chair, History Department)

Discussion of PhD Programs
  Financial advantages to grad programs
  Academic advantages to grad programs
  PhD departments bring approximately $10-million to campus

Need to build a new strategic plan for graduate education, particularly PhD programs

Alfred Lutz (TBR Faculty Sub-Council)

TBR faculty research initiative dealing with faculty and student success

Discussion of Dual-Enrollment Admissions policy/guidelines

Discussion of TBR updates related to so-called “reverse transfers”

Information items:
  No progress in study of adjunct faculty pay
  Gov. Haslam is on record as being opposed to expanding “partnership benefits”
  TBR Library Consortium to study library software and system-wide collections
  TBR Accessibility conference to examine ADA access to instructional materials