

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 assistanceships 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 or 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