

---

Members Present: Mark Abolins, Murat Arik, Tammy Bahmanziari, Martha Balachandran, Tom Black, Kathryn Blankenship, Andrew Brower, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Laura Cochrane, Mark Doyle, Tricia Farwell, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Tim Greer, Joshua Harms, Christine Hiers, Robert Kalwinsky, Yang Kim, Paul Kline, Rachel Leander, Vanessa Lefler, Cen Li, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, John Pennington, Ariana Postlethwait, Jason Reineke, Michael Rice, Lauren Rudd, Kristi Shamburger, Mary Ellen Sloane, Nat Smith, Donald Snead, Sherri Stevens, Michelle Stevens, Deborah Wagnon, Kristen West, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent: Don Aliquo, Tina Hall, Michael Principe, Shane Smith

Members Excused: Alan Boehm, Mamit Deme, Terry Quinn, Deana Raffo, Saleh Sbenaty

Nonmembers Substituting for Regular Members: Vishwas Bedakar

---

## Agenda

1. Roll call: President Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Note: President Martin suspended the meeting between 2:54 p.m. and 3:44 p.m. in order for President McPhee to address the senators.
2. Alfred Lutz moved to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016 meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded and the minutes as corrected were approved by voice vote.
3. Report of Faculty Senate Budget

General operating	\$2,247.57
Travel	1,600.00
Foundation	473.16

4. Special Business: Senate bylaws amendment regarding faculty appointment to MTSU Board

Alfred Lutz moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the MTSU Faculty Senate, "Faculty Appointment to Middle Tennessee State Board." The motion was seconded. President Martin explained the purpose for the proposed amendment and noted the amendment must be ratified by the MTSU faculty at large as soon as possible in order to satisfy a SACS accreditation requirement. Alfred Lutz moved to change the selection process described in Section III of the amendment to involve nominations made by faculty at large. The motion was seconded. Vanessa Lefler proposed a friendly amendment, seconded by Michael Rice and accepted by Lutz, to delete the words "from the Colleges" later in Section III. The motion passed by voice vote.

Further discussion of the amendment ensued, including questions about how to resolve situations with too many or not enough nominations, how to handle possible election ties, and eligibility of faculty members to serve on the local board.

John Pennington moved to add to Section III that "Results of the Faculty Senate election must be ratified electronically by the MTSU faculty at large." The motion was seconded and was defeated by voice vote.

David Otts moved to add to Section II that to be eligible to serve as the faculty representative on the local board, a faculty member must be a current or former member of the MTSU Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded and was defeated by voice vote.

Alfred Lutz moved to change Section II to specify that to be eligible to serve as the faculty representative on the local board, a faculty member must have worked at least 7 consecutive years at MTSU. The motion was seconded and was passed by voice vote.

The amendment to the bylaws, with revisions noted above, passed by voice vote (approved amendment attached).

David Otts moved to submit the approved amendment to the MTSU faculty at large for ratification. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

5. Steering committee vacancies from College of Liberal Arts: An election to fill these two vacancies was deferred to the September meeting due to member absences.

6. President Martin encouraged senators to read the documents included in the member packets distributed at the Faculty Senate Retreat:
  - Faculty Senate Bylaws, ratified as amended August 28, 2015; available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate/docs/Faculty-Senate-Bylaws-Revised-August-2015.pdf>
  - 2015-2016 MTSU Faculty Survey Report, available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate/docs/2015-2016-MTSU-Faculty-Survey-Report.pdf>
  - Memorandum from the Faculty Compensation Study Committee to Provost Brad Bartel, dated April 29, 2016
  - MTSU Articles of Shared Governance, Rev. 7.0, dated March 27, 2016, available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate/docs/Articles-of-Shared-Governance-MTSU-03-27-2016.pdf>
7. President Martin encouraged senators to pay close attention to pending revisions to MTSU policies and standards in light of the FOCUS Act, and to submit comments as appropriate. Pending policy revisions are posted online at [http://mtsuet.edu/FOCUSpolicies/pending/Pending\\_Policies.php](http://mtsuet.edu/FOCUSpolicies/pending/Pending_Policies.php)
8. The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) may be able to provide training to the Faculty Senate on best practices of shared governance in September or October. President Martin is awaiting President McPhee's decision about funding the training.
9. TBR Faculty Sub-council Report: Alfred Lutz will email a copy of his report of the July 15, 2016 meeting to the senators.
10. Senate meeting start times: A vote on changing the start time of regular meetings was deferred to the September meeting.
11. President Martin adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Attachment: Senate Bylaws amendment as approved

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen West  
2016-2017 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

## Faculty Appointment to Middle Tennessee State Board (An Amendment to the Bylaws of the MTSU Faculty Senate, approved by Faculty Senate 8/17/16)

The FOCUS ACT of 2015 allows an appointment to the State Board for Middle Tennessee State University to be selected from the faculty. This policy provides the details for that selection and is set forward in the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate.

### **Section I:**

Description of Responsibilities: As provided for in the FOCUS ACT of 2015, there will be a local board faculty representative selected from the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University. The term of the faculty representative to the board will be two years, as established by state law. No faculty member on the local board may serve for more than one two-year term without a two-year break, with the exception as noted in Section IV. The selection of the faculty representative will be under the purview of the Faculty Senate of Middle Tennessee State University. The faculty representative will attend board meetings and fulfill fiduciary responsibility as required by membership on the Board. Additionally, the local board faculty representative shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Steering Committee, President's Liaison Committee, and Academic Affairs Committee.

### **Section II:**

Eligibility: To be eligible to serve as the faculty representative on the local board, the faculty member must be a tenured, full-time faculty member who has worked at least 7 consecutive years at MTSU, and who has performed less than 50% of their work in the area of administration during these 7 years as determined by their workload. Faculty members who perform 50% or greater of their work in the area of administration, including members of the Chairs Council, shall not be eligible to serve as faculty representative on the local board. If eligibility of a person to be nominated is questioned, the Faculty Senate shall be the judge of the qualifications of that person. The decision of the Faculty Senate can be appealed in writing to the Faculty Senate President within two weeks of notice of ineligibility. In the case of an appeal, the Faculty Senate will appoint a committee with one representative per college, including University College and Walker Library to review the decision.

### **Section III:**

Selection Process: In a year when a new board member is to be selected, the Faculty Senate President will request from the faculty nominations of faculty members to be considered for election to the local board. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will review nominations for eligibility and present a ballot to the Faculty Senate for a vote. The local board faculty representative will be elected at the next Faculty Senate meeting by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate. A majority of the total Faculty Senate membership shall constitute a quorum for voting. The election will take place at the appropriate Faculty Senate meeting in order to allow the faculty senate representative to participate in the training and assumption of duties at the same time as other new Board members for that year. If the Faculty Senate Steering Committee judges that an insufficient number of nominations has been received, then the Faculty Senate Steering

Committee may add a nomination to the ballot. In this case, the assent of the additional nominee must be obtained by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee before presenting the ballot to the Faculty Senate.

**Section IV:**

Replacement of Faculty Board Member: If a faculty board member is unable to complete the term of his/her appointment, a replacement for the faculty board member will be secured in accordance with Sections II and III of this article. The new selection process will begin immediately upon notification of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee of the need. Once elected, the replacement will serve the remainder of the term of the board member being replaced; completing a partial term of a previous faculty representative does not prevent the replacing board member from being elected to an immediate subsequent full term.