The MTSU Faculty Senate met at 4:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8, 2014.


Members Absent: Tom Black, Mamit Deme, John Dougan (excused), Michelle Finch (excused), Paul Fischer, Seikou Franklin (excused), Rhonda Hoffman (excused), Steve Howard (excused), Michael Principe, Sherry Roberts, Charlene True (excused)

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

The most recent Senate budget figures were approved:
- General $1,458.49
- Travel 699.06
- Foundation 422.16

Lana Seivers, Dean, College of Education, spoke as “Dean of the Month.”
“Because we teach, everybody else can.”

Mandates impacting CoE curriculum
- Ready-2-Teach mandate from Tennessee Board of Regents
- edTPA mandates from Board of Regents and THEC
- Strengthen partnerships with local education agencies (LEA’s)
- Design & get approval for PhD in literacy studies
  - 33 students in program, have graduated 9
- Develop strategic plan

Components in the College of Education
- Department of Elementary Education, Special Education
- Department of Educational Leadership
- Student teaching office
  - Recently restructured
  - 200 students at two schools per semester = 400 placements/semester
28 students enrolled in the new EdD in Assessment program

College of education is highly regulated by the state legislature, THEC and TBR, which are sometimes in conflict.

Threats:
- Enrollment down 12%
- Privatization
  - University of Phoenix has more graduates than any other program in the state
  - No extra pay for advanced degree

(The CoE PowerPoint will be put on the Faculty Senate D2L site)

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Lance Alexis – Access & Disability
- State legislature has mandated new access guidelines (House Bill 1857/Senate Bill 1692)
  - Closed captioned video
  - Will audio descriptors be required?
    - Spoken in class only
    - Posted on D2L will require access to a screen reader
  - This is an unfunded mandate which Provost Bartel estimates will cost $1.5-million/year

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Willis Means – Technology Access Fees (TAF)

$4.3-million TAF funds/year

$100K per department limit, but departments can combine projects for funding

University will ask for $460k for print management
Departments/colleges can opt out
It appears control of the funds is shifting from Academic Affairs to Business.

It appears that Category 3 funds will come out of category 4.
The senate would like to be involved in discussions of moving category 4 money to category 3.

Motion made and passed: Recognizing that Category 4 funds support essential discipline specific programs, we oppose appropriation of TAF category 4 funds for non-category 4 purposes.

Trish Farwell - Proposed committee changes are out for 30 day review

Joey Gray - Ad hoc Marketing Committee
VP Andrew Oppmann would like the Senate to propose “unsung heroes” for inclusion on the University home page
Send nominations to Joey

There has been some positive feedback on how the new advisors are working.
However, in contravention to established policy some 20 advisors are teaching.
Provost Bartel says that will be corrected.

Course redesign:
A proposed course redesign policy has been proposed by history department.
The proposal is on the Senate D2L site, and will be discussed at February FS meeting.
A poll underad students is underway regarding alternative scheduling of classes.
The proposal for a one-week break at Thanksgiving is apparently not very popular and will not be pursued.

Alfred Lutz – TBR representative
The new THEC budget recommendation is for $25 million for the “funding formula,” but this is only 62% of what the formula actually calls for.

THEC is recommending tuition increase of 0.4%
TBR: If 62% happens, 0.4% will not work
THEC is “encouraging” full funding and is proposing 3% salary “adjustment”

Funding increase requests are apparently resulting in more push-back from legislature regarding “efficiency”

There may be legislation coming regarding “use of facilities” to include “balance”
Some schools are holding back funds to provide “balance,”
Guns on campus legislation will be coming

56,000 students who would not have attended school before will now attend because of TN Promise.
No estimate on impact on 4-year schools

The University is proposing a new “Policy Review Process” policy that has the potential to limit faculty input to policy changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.