

**Middle Tennessee State University**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**April 14, 2008**

**Action Items:**

Please review the documents on a tobacco-free campus as posted to the Faculty Announcements.

**Faculty Senate Election Outcomes for At-Large Positions**

- At-Large elections resulted in the following three new senators: Ken Rushlow ( Elem & Spec Ed), Brandon Wallace (Soc/Anth), Stephanie Taylor (Recording Industry)
- Departmental Representatives will be joining the Senate as announced and posted online.

**Faculty Senate Meeting:**

- 1) Roll Call
  - a) Members Present – F. Amey, M. Balachandran, D. Belcher, P. Bradley, J. Caine, D. Campbell, J. Carter, W. Cribb, J. Davis, W. Dornan, G. Freeman, C. Frost, B. Haskew, J. Hausler, C. Higgins, T. Johnston, N. Kelker, J. LeBlond, A. Lutz, J. Marcellus M. Martin, T. McBreen, R. McBride, N. McCormick, D. McSwain, T. Perry, D. Penn, J. Pennington, T. Ring, K. Smith, L. Warise, J. Wermert, A. Williams, J. Williams
  - b) Members Excused - M. Arndt, A. Miller, K. Nofsinger
  - c) Members Absent – R. Blair, C. Bratten, L. Burris, S. Cantrell, F. Crawford, S. Daughtery, F. Colvin, W. Ilsley, J. Maynor, M. Principe, S. Seipel, G. Vernardakis, W. Warren
  - d) Other attendees - Sidney McPhee
- 2) Comments from President McPhee
  - a) Please watch for end-of-year email.
  - b) Update on current events
    - i) Budget – State budget is in very difficult state. The Governor has postponed the meetings required for next year's budget ; Currently the budget is \$270M in the hole. All state agencies have had a reduction in budgets except higher education and K-12. March revenues are below projection and it is likely that further cuts will be required and there will probably be a budget impact on higher education.
      - (1) We will take this opportunity to present accurate picture of budget and will take all opportunities to creatively meet the challenges presented by the budget.
      - (2) We hope this will not be as bad a budget difficulty as 5 years. Last year had excellent economic times. This year is different. Hopefully we will see an upswing and at this time I do not anticipate any layoffs or drastic personnel changes.
      - (3) The legislature has asked for single digit tuition increase; we hope to have 8 – 9% increase in tuition at the Board Meeting in June. This along with a stability in enrollment should allow us to proceed through these times.
      - (4) The President has consulted with Deans and Chairs. There may be some meetings with faculty soon.

- ii) Science Building – we have maintained funding and priority for the building and it will have first priority when the funding cycle permits the building to be begun.  
Note: Next priority is the expansion of the Mass Comm Building.
- iii) In a good year we got little state support. This is not unique to Tennessee and will be a trend for the future. Higher Education will have to work towards addressing these issues over time.
- iv) Open Questions
  - (1) What about the faculty salary equity year #3? If resources permit, we will of course pursue it. If we are unable to fund the equity plan this year, we will rework the plan for current data and current peer group and develop a new on-going (probably multi-year) plan.
  - (2) What is being planned for the centennial of the University? We are on track and have begun some quiet campaigning. Athletics has begun and also some private family giving. In recent years, we have increased giving in all areas except for estate gifts; in fact both number and amount of gifts has increased.
  - (3) What about big dollars, grants, science building, and science/engineering potential? We will be moved into Davis and there are no funds to renovate. Where is the good in that? We don't have the tradition of giving and programs that allow the large funds to come to the University. Most of our growth in grants have been in service grants, which do not generate the freedom of use of funds that research grants provide. We also need the array of graduate and professional programs that will generate the kind of tradition we need. We are doing well given our current traditions. Regarding Davis Science Building, it originally was meant to be renovated as part of the Science Building. We have informed the Board that we are aggressively pursuing renovation funds for Davis Science Building.
  - (4) Do we have enough counselors? No. With the previous budget cuts, we protected academics. We will have to address these issues quickly.
  - (5) What about cap on money to athletics? That cap has been maintained by Board. This has resulted in more private funds to support the athletics. Less than 2% of the institutions in NCAA have athletics programs that can survive without state funding.
  - (6) What about the new PhD programs? The three PhDs in the science program are going well. We are struggling with one of them. We are the bellwether of teacher education in Tennessee and need to have a PhD in Education. We have some Board support to create an innovative PhD. These are doing well and we hope to have them in place in a timely fashion.
  - (7) Thank you for your questions. Please feel free to send questions directly or through the Liaison committee. I am optimistic and thank you for all that you do to make MTSU a great place to live, study and work.
- 3) Approval of March 2008 Minutes - Approved as presented and posted online
- 4) Treasurer's Report
  - a) Operating Budget: To be provided at later date
  - b) Travel: To be provided at later date
  - c) Discretionary Account: To be provided at later date
- 5) President's report –

- a) Kevin Smith and Alfred Lutz will be changing roles on June 1; Deborah Belcher will be the new President-elect; Mary Martin will remain Secretary/Treasurer.
  - b) Certificates of participation were passed out for out-going secretaries.
  - c) The new degree audit program is finally up and running.
  - d) There were 19 applications; four have been forwarded to Human Resources for interviewing.
  - e) The student publications committee has requested that Faculty Senate provide a senator for their board (two meetings per year, April and December). Lon Nuell had previously filled this position. Barbara Haskew will serve this position.
  - f) Please remember the three faculty
  - g) Wednesday August 20 will be the Faculty Retreat in JUB and in the Hazelwood room. An agenda will come later in the summer. Please send agenda item suggestions to Alfred Lutz as you can.
- 6) Discussion Items
- a) Posted for next meeting: the document from Nursing which provides an overview of a tobacco-free campus. The steering committee has recommended that this become part of a committee to review this document and make recommendations. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 7) New Business
- a) Motion proposed by Barbara Haskew regarding the Seigenthaler Proposal as presented to the Board of Regents was passed by the Faculty Senate; at the request of the senators, this will be distributed to appropriate administrators.
- 8) Adjournment