

Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Senate
May 5, 2008

Action Items:

Please check email and upcoming announcements in order to be prepared for August events.

Faculty Senate Meeting:

- 1) Roll Call
 - a) Members Present – M. Arndt, D. Belcher, J. Brickley, C. Bratten, J. Cain, N. Callendar, J. Carter, W. Cribb, W. Dornan, J. Dowdy, L. Fisher, G. Freeman, C. Frost, B. Haskew, C. Higgins, W. Ilsley, K. Nofsinger, J. LeBlond, A. Lutz, J. Marcellus, M. Martin, J. Maynor, W. Means, T. Perry, D. Penn, M. Rice, K. Rushlow, S. Seipel, K. Smith, R. Untch, P. Wall, J. Wallace, L. Warise, W. Warren, J. Wermert,
 - b) Members Excused -
 - c) Members Absent – M. Balachandran, R. Blair, P. Bradley, L. Burris, D. Campbell, S. Cantrell, F. Crawford, S. Daughtery, J. Davis, F. Colvin, J. Hausler, T. Johnston, N. Kelker, R. McBride, N. McCormick, D. McSwain, A. Miller, J. Pennington, M. Principe, T. Ring, G. Vernardakis, A. Williams, J. Williams
- 2) Approval of April 2008 Minutes - Approved as presented and posted online
- 3) 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
- 4) President's report –
 - a) Welcome to the new members for the next academic year. There are two senators to be elected in fall: Recording Industry representative and at large from College of Basic and Applied Sciences.
 - b) Comments from Kevin Smith:
 - i) There have been 3282 emails (+ 38) for faculty senate business, attended 480 meetings, and the president's job is a major investment of time. We need to take advantage of our access to these meetings, since this is not the norm at other state institutions in Tennessee.
 - ii) The new secretarial position, becoming full time, will be an advantage to the Senate. The attendance of the President-Elect at meeting is also going to smooth the transition.
 - iii) As senate members, we must remember to be fully consultative with our constituency so that the Administration will believe that our voice is representative.
 - iv) All resolutions, discussion, and deliberations are critical and paying attention to these details make us more effective.
 - v) Regarding adjunct pay, the agreement to pay adjuncts more is clearly unanimous. Unfortunately, there is going to be no money available for almost any purposes. The bad news from the Governor's Office is that the deficit is up to \$580M. The expectation is that the cuts will be close to as difficult as in 2003. Faculty tenure track and tenured positions will be protected (unless it is far, far worse than 2003).

MTSU has never applied cuts to those positions. There is a bill before the legislature to limit tuition increases to 5%. The budget will be announced next Monday, then going forward to THEC and TBR. There is a chance that a 11% tuition increase will be proposed and possibly approved. The administrators believe in protecting the academic core of the University, but there will be some pain since cuts will probably be between 3 – 7%. So far a freeze on hiring has not been proposed. The usual choices are to hold open lines vacant. This sounds gloomy, but the situation should be one that we can all get through.

- c) Comments from the new President: There will be a faculty senate meeting on July 20 if needed. You will hear from me if it is needed. The fall retreat will be August 20 and we will focus on four issues: faculty workloads, student retention, smoking policy, and shared governance policy. From 2:30 – 3:30 will be an administrative presentation. Thanks are deserved to Kevin Smith for his diligence and hard work this past year. He has successfully continued the increase in visibility for the Faculty Senate President.

5) Discussion Items

6) New Business

7) Election of members to Steering and Liaison Committee – The elections for members to Steering and Liaison Committee were conducted. The results are posted on the internet as counting of ballots was concluded after the meeting adjourned.

8) Adjournment