

Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Senate
October 6, 2008

Action Items:

- Please review the minutes from the September meeting as posted online; they will be presented for approval at the November meeting.
- Please review the Budget Impact Study and return comments to Alfred Lutz. We are looking to Senior Administrators for response.
- Please review the Faculty Handbook and pass any comments needing action to President Lutz.

Faculty Senate Meeting:

- 1) Roll Call
 - a) Members Present – F. Amey, M. Arndt, M. Balachandran, D. Belcher, C. Bratten, J. Brickey, L. Burriss, J. Cain, N. Callendar, J. Carter, W. Cribb, S. Daughtery, J. Dowdy, L. Fisher, M. Foster, G. Freeman, C. Frost, B. Haskew, J. Hausler, C. Higgins, W. Ilsley, N. Kelker, J. LeBlond, A. Lutz, J. Marcellus M. Martin, J. Maynor, T. McBreen, R. McBride, W. Means, A. Miller, L. Mulraine, K. Nofsinger, J. Oliver, D. Penn, J. Pennington, T. Perry, M. Rice, K. Rushlow, S. Seipel, L. Selva, K. Smith, C. Stephens, S. Taylor, R. Untch, P. Wall, B. Wallace, L. Warise, W. Warren, J. Wermert
 - b) Members Excused -
 - c) Members Absent -
- 2) Approval of September 2008 Minutes - To be approved at next meeting; posted online
- 3) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Operating Budget: \$3,867.52 (September amount)
 - b) Travel: \$106.13 (September amount)
 - c) Discretionary Account: \$391.37 (September amount)
- 4) Announcement – Faculty Sick Leave Bank
 - a) There is a need for 2 faculty members to act as trustees for Sick Leave Bank, preferably from Mass Comm and Business. Haskew and Burris volunteered.
- 5) President's report –
 - a) Budget Cut Impact Study has been posted on the Faculty Senate page. There has been some response.
 - b) Carnegie Classification – A University must produce 20 PhDs per year to maintain a research status. THEC looked at our PhD production and saw that we were not meeting the same level as our peer group. THEC decided to add UTC and TTech, which would bring salary figures down drastically. Dr. McPhee has responded to THEC – we expect 34 degrees in 2009 – 10. THEC has agreed that if we meet the Carnegie requirement this year, then THEC will not add the two additional schools. Hopefully, all of this will take care of itself as long as we keep the number of PhDs and this will not be a worry.
 - c) Clinical-Track, Research-Track, and Instructional Coordinator Faculty Positions Policy – the positions as described are broadly defined and leave a lot of open options that may or may not be desirable. There is a new draft which will be distributed shortly for Faculty Senate Review.

- d) On-line Training Mastery Tests – these have been dropped for online training sessions for faculty. TBR sets policy for central office employees only at this time and the use of the online testing is determined by campus coordinator. The training session is mandatory but the test is not; a certificate will be printed for those who choose to not take the test. Given employment law, there is little we can do about the training sessions themselves. The training was offered at inappropriate times for faculty; there are copies of student and employment law available from Hirschfield's training which are available with your department chair. Consequences for not taking training are not clear, but presumably would be pejorative for the individual. It is actually a protection for the institution. – Request from the Faculty Senate – could the instructions from the HR office be stated more clearly so that faculty know their individual obligations. There definitely needs to be an education of the student body also.
- e) FS Budget Committee – We have insufficient response to volunteers for the Budget Committee. Please confer with your colleagues and consider volunteering yourself.
- 6) Action Items
 - a) Tennessee University Faculty Senates – This group would provide us with some group leverage and perhaps save time and effort while not affecting our autonomy and independence at all. This motion has been previously read so the vote was taken. The vote was 33 yes votes and 1 negative vote.
 - b) Amendment to the bylaws- The amendment establishes process for replacement of a steering committee/liaison committee member who resigns. The motion has been previously read so the vote was taken. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7) Discussion Items
 - a) Review of Faculty Handbook –this is being reviewed by administrators and is open for review for the next week.
 - b) The Carnegie Foundation has a new classification called Community Engagement and MTSU is pursuing this classification.
- 8) New Business
 - a) There was a discussion of the impact of the strict interpretation and promotion of The Little Hatch Act and that this robs the faculty of free speech.
 - b) Negative impact upon students ability to travel abroad has occurred from the budget cuts.
- 9) Adjournment