

**Members Present**

F. Amey, M. Baggarly, D. Belcher, J. Brickey, W. Cribb, J. Dooley, L. Dubek, P. Fischer, L. Fisher, C. Frost, C. Harris, B. Haskew, R. Heinrich, R. Henderson, C. Higgins, R. Hoffman, W. Ilsley, P. Kelly, A. Lutz, J. Maynor, R. McBride, H.W. Means, K. Nofsinger, P. Oliver, D. Penn, J. Pennington, T. Perry, M. Rice, S. Seipel, L. Selva, C. Stephens, S. Taylor, R. Untch, P. Wall, L. Warise, W. Warren,

**Members Absent**

M. Arndt, L. Burriss, S. Daugherty, M. Foster, S. Rawls, B. Wallace,

**Members Excused**

J. Dowdy, R. Livingston, T. Greer, K. Rushlow

**Additional Attendees**

Andrea Georgiou (on behalf of Nate Callender)

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Deborah Belcher, 2009-2010 Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Faculty Senate Chambers. Senators signed roll upon arrival.

**Greeting and Welcome**

**Approval of the August 26<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

Willis Means moved to approve the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with corrections. Warner Cribb seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by majority vote of the Senate.

**Treasurer's Report**

The current operating expenses are \$2,306.19 with an additional \$400.00 for travel and a Foundation Balance of \$743.28.

**President's Report**

• **Information Items**

- President's Cabinet Meeting: 9-14-09, 8:30 a.m.
  - MTSU will incur an additional (approximate) 6% (\$4.5M) reduction in the 2010-2011 fiscal year because the current state budget is behind \$30M.
    - THEC will make a decision as to percentages which may not be equal and fair among the universities. This may be

different based on FTEs. Since MTSU generates the most FTEs, this often leads to less money to MTSU.

- President McPhee is very concerned about this. He is also concerned that there may be a request for even more out of that budget.
- We have 25,191 students this year (5.3% increase this fall). With those increases in numbers, the majority of the money generated is being used to pay for increased overhead with some saved to cover expected reductions in upcoming budgets.
- MTSU received a Confucius Institute, <http://www.confuciusinstitute.net/>.
  - MTSU is one of 12 out of 160 that were awarded an Institute. Only 2 universities in US received this Institute. MTSU received this over UTK, Belmont and Vanderbilt. MTSU will receive \$150K in start up funds for the first year and then additional funds as needed for the Institute.
- **Old Business**
  - **Faculty Bylaw Amendments**
    - Amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws were emailed to all faculty for a vote at the Fall Faculty Meeting. The bylaws were approved by unanimous vote at the Fall Faculty Meeting, Friday, August 28, 2009. These have been changed and updated on the Faculty Senate website.
  - **Faculty Handbook**
    - D. Belcher thanked those who helped review and update the handbook. The MTSU Faculty Handbook is now online. The Faculty Senate website has a link to the handbook website.
- **New Business**
  - **TUFS (Tennessee Universities Faculty Senators) Fall Meeting**
    - The Faculty Senate Presidents and President-elects spent over 25 hours reviewing, discussing and amending the position paper started by the group in April. The position paper has been submitted to the respective faculty senates. The MTSU Faculty Senate will discuss the paper and move to approve or reject the position paper at its 9/14 meeting. Primary goal of MTSU's representatives to TUFS was to protect MTSU's position through strategic statements in the document that support MTSU's mission.
  - **Discussion:**
    - There was fear among faculty about how to protect our financial interests.
    - There are concerns about keeping community colleges in same system as our university system.
    - Concerns that faculty participation at all levels is not going to maintain its present status or improve over the years. Nonetheless, this may be our only meaningful voice in TN government.

- There was some discussion that there would be “local boards” at each University that would represent the university and its mission, and represent the impact of universities on the economy of the city and state.
  - Motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Willis – motion unanimously passed.
- **Faculty Questions and Concerns:**
  - **Positioning the University**
    - Requested an update about the status of the Positioning the University for the Future decisions. D. Belcher said that more information will be available Wednesday during the Liaison Meeting. Faculty have concerns about the administration’s justifications for its decisions and which decisions are actually cost saving and which have no cost savings impact.
  - **Science Building –**
    - We have learned that the building is being postponed, but there is an article about UTC getting its new library to move forward. It appears that UTC used a bonded approach to move this forward. B. Haskew requested that D. Belcher ask whether there will be similar flexibility for MTSU’s science building needs.
  - **Transparency**
    - A. Lutz remarked that one of the crucial elements of shared governance is sharing information about where the money is being allocated. The language of the President’s newsletter is vague and does not allow for educated judgments by faculty or the public as to the appropriateness of those allocations. The Senate should request greater transparency at the administrative level (also at TBR and THEC level) so faculty and the public can better understand how money is being allocated.
      - D. Belcher informed the Senators that Mr. Cothorn will meet with the Liaison Committee on Wednesday to discuss the budget spreadsheets. This should provide that transparency.
    - On a related issue, it was asked what additional cost new students add? At some point, a break-even is reached and additional students generate pure revenue. If growth just causes cost, then we need to stop growth. However, if growth results in revenue, we want to know where that is being allocated. It cannot all be allocated to overhead, especially in light of the fact that the costs should, in fact, be going down.
    - A continued concern is the President’s statement that most restructuring is viewed as operational not academic; as a result these are administration’s decisions without faculty input. Faculty request that “operational” be defined.

- **Student Satisfaction**

- Feedback from students has been good. In all meetings D. Belcher has been to, it has been apparent that Student Affairs has done an outstanding job of taking care of things before they became issues.

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**Adjournment**

D. Belcher adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Taylor

2009-2010 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: D. Belcher