

Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Senate
September 8, 2008

Action Items:

Please review the documents available on the web.

Pre-Meeting – Dean Boyle – Summer School and Distance Learning

- Video conferencing is a real possibility...who is going to spearhead this? Dean Boyle is ready to go with any projects proposed, initiated, run, and promulgated by the faculty.
- We need a “crash team” to support technology and system and faculty return to being subject experts.
- Faculty salary issues are also a problem...the restrictions on pay cause huge problems for willing faculty who are already doing a lot of extra work.
- Can we tap into student//RIM program for crash team? Perhaps juniors and seniors getting credit for experiential credit?
- Can we change the caps on faculty salary to 33% for online courses? Policies will return to website shortly.
- Summer school issues–
 - Can't use Lottery money in the summer. Dr. Glenn had worked on changing this and it did not happen.
 - Dual enrollment is geared (\$350) towards community college. We have not been raising the maximum caps per year...so current tuition is eating up the loan money for the entire year. The cap is set federally.
 - There is a disincentive for summer activities for entering freshman...it is to the university's best interest to bring in freshmen in the fall.
 - 87% of all students work in summer to support AY school. They can't go to summer school.
 - How are fees and tuition set for summer school? What has the trend been?
 - What about the tuition rate for summer? Can we lower that?
 - What about a student ombudsman that will streamline the process so that enrollment is easy.
 - Get the deans and chairs to quit cancelling classes which will make if they are left open for a few weeks.
 - State policies encourage students to community colleges and 120 hours decreases need for summer attendance.
 - For summer school, they are saving 20% (faculty payroll) on salaries in summer.
 - Can we look at year-round and mini-semesters to handle block teachers and other plans? What is stopping these possibilities? What about Executive model?

- There is a double standard (between schools) regarding the in-state vs. out-of-state tuition for military and dependents.
- Dual Credit vs. dual enrollment – it is “CLEP on steroids” We are piloting this and are the first school to do this. Targets non-traditional college families. We are going to write challenge tests, feed pizza, add on-site advising options. (There is a permanent student in McMinnville now.) This gets students in who would not normally be here or at some other university.
- Please stay connected, because he is serious about the ideas.

Faculty Senate Meeting:

- 1) Roll Call
 - a) Members Present – F. Amey, D. Belcher, C. Bratten, J. Brickey, L. Burriss, J. Cain, N. Callendar, J. Carter, W. Cribb, J. Dowdy, L. Fisher, M. Foster, G. Freeman, J. Hausler, C. Higgins, W. Ilsley, N. Kelker, J. LeBlond, A. Lutz, J. Marcellus M. Martin, J. Maynor, W. Means, K. Nofsinger, J. Oliver, D. Penn, J. Pennington, T. Perry, M. Rice, K. Rushlow, L. Selva, K. Smith, C. Stephens, S. Taylor, R. Untch, P. Wall, L. Warise, W. Warren, J. Wermert
 - b) Members Excused -
 - c) Members Absent - M. Arndt, M. Balachandran, S. Daughtery, C. Frost, B. Haskew, R. McBride, A. Miller, L. Mulraine, S. Seipel, B. Wallace,
- 2) Approval of May 2008 and July 2008 Minutes - Approved as posted online
- 3) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Operating Budget: \$3,867.52
 - b) Travel: \$106.13
 - c) Discretionary Account: \$391.37
- 4) Recognition of Kevin Smith and accomplishments of his presidency
 - a) Full-time secretary
 - b) Pipeline group
 - c) Raised profile of faculty senate
- 5) President's report –
 - a) Fall enrollment and Budget report – Fall 2008 headcount at MTSU is up 2.4% from 23,350 to 23,810. Also is substantially down at UM and TSU, up at APU. At least half is being held back to cover an expected future budget cut. Some will be used to restore money from previous cuts.
 - b) Committee will be assembled in 2008 to review promotion and tenure policies. Please ask colleagues regarding concerns about process or policy so that faculty senate can respond. Please do this within the next two weeks.
 - i) Q: Untenured faculty have lost access to resources – travel money, release of time, etc. Does the university or faculty senate have a method of taking this into consideration when considering tenure and promotion? In particular, new requirements were provided and resources were taken away that were promised at the time of hiring.
 - c) Creates for TBR schools something that UT schools already have to respond to and communicate about issues facing higher education. A proposed constitution will be

posted for review; the question to join this group would then come up at the next faculty senate meeting.

d) On-line training

- i) Information security tutorial coming from IT – designed to help protect information on campus. There is no mastery test. It will also look at your computer (“spider”) and will point out dangerous information. If you willfully refuse to correctly dispose of SSN, then you are at risk. This training session is useful; two faculty will review for advice to faculty senate.
- ii) The “mastery tests” related to the training upon hiring – testing is no longer required for Title VI, but sexual harassment testing is still being required. UT and UM have the position that a simple notification is sufficient. The double standard has not been explained.
- iii) The need to prove consistency across institutions is important. Motion: The faculty senate wants to state that MTSU should follow the UT model for informing the faculty about sexual harassment. The motion was proposed and seconded. It passed unanimously.

- e) The MTSU faculty handbook is supposed to be a reference to various policies. The legal situation is different in different states regarding the status of the faculty handbook, and in some states is considered a legal contract. There was a small consensus to find out the status in Tennessee

6) Action Items

- a) Budget cut survey – please see survey as included. Motion was proposed and seconded by the Steering Committee to distribute the survey to the faculty. Motion passed unanimously. Please remind your colleagues to consider responding to the survey.
- b) Faculty senate budget committee – reinstating the committee was discussed at the retreat. The purpose of the committee long-term is to devise a process that gets “ahead of” the process instead of just listening to the results of a process. Motion was proposed and seconded by the Steering Committee. Motion was passed unanimously and request for participation was made.

7) Discussion Items

- a) Change to Faculty Senate By-Laws in order to normalize the replacement of Steering/Liaison Committee members who have had to resign.

8) New Business

9) Adjournment