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Members Present – F. Amey, M. Arndt, M. Baggaly, C. Beauchamp, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, T. Brinthaup, N. Callender, R. Clark, C. Cooper, W. Cribb, J. Dooley, J. Dowdy, L. Dubek, P. Fischer, L. Fisher, G. Freeman, T. Greer, C. Harris, R. Heinrich, R. Henderson, R. Hoffman, P. Kelly, Z. Khan, A. Lutz, R. McBride, K. N. Nofsinger, C. Rice, J. Rich, L. Selva, C. Stephens, S. Taylor, M. Weller, D. Winborn, G. Zlotky

Members Absent – R. Butler, K. Darby, S. Daugherty, W. Ilsley, J. Maynor, S. Rawls, P. Wall

Members Excused – K. Butler, C. Li, J. P. Oliver, M. Rice, B. Wallace

Additional Attendees –

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## Agenda

1. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.
2. Approval of November 8, 2010 Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Travel – \$5.51
  - b. Operating Expenses – \$1,543.51
  - c. Foundation Account – \$517.44
4. President's Report:
5. Old Business:
6. TBR Faculty Sub-council Report:
  - a. Alfred presented the Faculty Sub-council report. He discussed the TBR Academic Freedom policy change to be presented to the Chancellor.
7. MTSU President Dr. Sidney McPhee:
  - a. President McPhee was introduced. He spoke first concerning the campus shooting. He announced that a press conference was ongoing. He gave an overview of what, to the best of his knowledge, happened and the time frame for the event. He stated that a campus of MTSU's

size cannot be locked down, but a building can be locked down. Within 30 minutes the gunman was captured. The campus was released from the “lockdown” after the gunman and weapon were found. A question was posed concerning the police preparation for dealing with masses of students. Dr. McPhee said that he would bring this up with the local law enforcement agencies. Dr. McPhee stated that students walk around during crises like this as if nothing was happening.

- b. Dr. McPhee stated that there were not going to be any significant additional budget reductions. We have completed the mandated reductions. This summer we will be \$31 million dollars below the 2008 budget. We are to expect an additional 1% budget reduction as opposed to the 3-5% which was expected. The State will have an additional 3-4% of revenue but these new dollars will not be used to offset our budget cuts. Dr. McPhee stated that we are in a position to complete the reductions without additional cuts.
- c. Dr. McPhee stated that it has been impressed upon our legislators that 4 years is a long time without raises. Both UT and the Board of Regents will be investigating some type of action to address faculty salary. He stated that some MTSU employees are below the poverty level. He is concerned about the loss of faculty through cuts and the State’s desire for us to produce increasing numbers of graduates. Tuition is being addressed for both university systems. Dr. McPhee stated that at least a bonus would be desired.
- d. Dr. McPhee stated that all angles have been worked concerning the Science Building. He has met with several key individuals in Nashville concerning the Science Building. There is talk of a major State bond which would include the Science Building and several other State buildings.
- e. Dr. McPhee stated that the University has been successfully reclassified as a Doctoral degree granting University. He stated that this change has immediately given MTSU a boost in the new funding formula. Salaries should be favorably affected by this reclassification. He stated that other institutions will fight this. He stated that MTSU does not want any special treatment, but the University should be recognized and rewarded for its work in providing undergraduate students to the State.
- f. The following questions were asked of the President:
  - i. A question was asked concerning the vacated hospital building. Dr. McPhee stated that the cost was very high for that building. The owners of the building are not interested in selling the building in parts or donating the facility. He stated that we cannot use the building as a science building replacement. He stated that it would also not work as a residence hall.
  - ii. Someone asked if the \$31 million cut from the budget was from buyouts? He stated that buyouts were a part of the cuts.
  - iii. What is the percentage of clerical staff were below the poverty level? 100 out of 2200
  - iv. For what length of time is the Carnegie classification valid? 5 years from now.

- v. What is the status for full time temps for next fall? He stated that it was a departmental or college decision but he would check with Dr. Bartel.
- vi. Governor Haslam suggested that possible savings could come from redundant programs. About which programs is he speaking? Dr. McPhee thinks the governor is thinking about new programs. He said that the governor said that any new dollars should go to community colleges and that universities should not expect much from the Governor's office.
- vii. Has there been any new discussion on 4 year universities receiving credit for transfer students? Dr. McPhee stated that the Complete College Act requires more graduates but the formula looks at the percentage of graduates. He stated that THEC has not moved from their previous stand on this issue.
- viii. Dr. Cribb asked for information on the "Hold Harmless" phase-out. Dr. McPhee stated that until 2008 other schools were losing enrollment, so the Hold Harmless provision was put into place to protect those schools. MTSU would benefit by the removal of this clause.
- ix. How are other TBR institutions managing with the budgetary "cliff"? Dr. McPhee stated that some institutions have not done their due diligence. He stated that everyone knew that the stimulus would end, but did not take measures to prepare. He stated that we are in the position to begin to build back what was lost.
- x. How much did increases in tuition and enrollment help in softening the budget cuts? Dr. McPhee referred us to the website, but stated that there was a moderate tuition increase (6%) compared to a larger increase (9%) at UT. He stated that MTSU is still a "bargain". He stated that our moderate increase in enrollment did not play a substantial roll in softening the budget cuts. He stated that he is concerned with legislators "throwing in the towel" concerning support for higher education funding. He stated that other States, in as bad if not worse financial shape than TN, received additional funding for higher education.
- g. Dr. McPhee said that MTSU is still in good shape even in light of the current budgetary state.

#### 8. New Business:

- a. Warner stated that Mr. Petryshak is considering the Turnitin.com access for all faculty.
- b. The Steering Committee will discuss faculty liability for student conduct during emergencies.
- c. The issue of clocks was briefly discussed. Warner stated that he was not consulted for this issue. Warner stated that all clocks will be removed regardless of being a slave or battery operated clock.
- d. College and Departmental Senator ballots will be sent out this semester.
- e. A major change in computers will soon be made and Mr. Petryshak will speak to the Senate about this.
- f. Two weeks from today the Senate will meet with Chancellor Morgan.

- g. The Steering Committee will meet with Dr. Bartels this Wednesday.
- h. The February President's meeting has been cancelled.

9. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:33PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender  
2010-2011 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: