

Faculty Senate
02/09/2015

The MTSU Faculty Senate met at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 9, 2015.

Members Present: Tom Black, Nita Brooks, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Hyrum Carroll, Alphonse Carter, Laura Cochrane, John Dougan, Laura Dubek, Meredith Dye, Tricia Farwell, Michelle Finch, Michael Fleming, Sekou Franklin, Buddy Freeman, Joey Gray, Tina Hall, Jeanne Harrington, Clay Harris, Joseph Hawkins, Brian Hinote, Rhonda Hoffman, Tom Jurkanin, Robert Kalwinsky, Paul Kline, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Janet McCormick, Ann McCullough, Scott McDaniel, Joel Miller, Michael Principe, Deana Raffo, Jason Reineke, Lauren Rudd, H. Stephen Smith, Barbara Turnage, Martha Weller, Kristen West, Annette Williams, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent: Scott Boyd (excused), Mamit Deme, Mark Doyle, Paul Fischer, Steve Howard, Willis Means (excused), John Pennington, Sherry Roberts, Charlene True (excused)

1. Minutes from the December 2014 meeting were approved with the following change:

Governor Haslam foresees some 56,000 students who would not have attended college before will now attend because of Tennessee Promise.

2. Treasurer's Report – Approved
3. Laura Clippard (Honors College) solicited help in informing Honors students about scholarship/fellowship opportunities. She noted the following awards recently presented to MTSU students

12 Fulbright
5 Goldwater
1 National Defense (\$100,000)
1 Boren
1 DAAD
1 Rhodes Finalist

She said the scholarship program needs readers to evaluate application materials, and interview panelists to help applicants prepare for scholarship interviews.

4. Mark Byrnes – Liberal Arts (“Dean of the Month”)

Successes:

EXL & Study Abroad are strong college programs.

Weaknesses:

There is limited support for research and conferences

Resources and facilities are weaknesses within the college.

Deans have limited discretion in making spending decisions.

Administratively it is difficult to have inter-disciplinary programs. Who gets the teaching load and student credit hour credit?

Opportunities:

College magazine

Creation of an advisory board to help promote message

Recruiting

“We need to do a better job explaining why a college degree is important

“We are not anti-job. We want our graduates to have jobs, but we are not a vocational school.”

Threats:

Tennessee Promise. We don't yet know the impact, but Liberal Arts will be significantly impacted because the college has the bulk of the general education courses.

If there are significant enrollment declines there may have to cut FTEs

5. Rick Sluder / Vincent Windrow (Student Success)

Multiple initiatives being developed

Returning freshmen up 2.5% from last year

Returning transfer students up 4.5% from last year

For all students, persistence is up 1.5% (457 students)

Call lists being generated from non-returnees

6. New senators must be selected and reported to Faculty Senate office prior to March 16 meeting

7. Course redesign:

Faculty Senate resolution: Course (re)design, implementation and assessment should be in the hands of faculty and departments

Motion to Accept:

Discussion

Vote: Approved

8. One department in Liberal Arts has appointed (not elected) Promotion & Tenure committee. The consensus among Senators is that this is not a good idea
9. Senators should send reports of problems/success with new advising programs to the Faculty Senate office
10. The Vice President for Academic Affairs is encouraging the development of promotion and tenure orientation/workshops for junior faculty. Mary Martin will check.
11. A response from the Athletic Department regarding overspending will be presented to the Senate at the March 2015 meeting.
12. A poll of student scheduling preferences is being developed.
13. There appears to be some issues regarding proposed “book bundling” by the bookstore. If books and supplies are bundled, will students still be required to purchase the bundled materials, even if they already obtained them from other sources?
14.
 - A. A Tuition and Fees Report is available on D2L
 - B. Pell grant data is available on D2L
 - C. Proposed lecturer definitions/standards/compensation issues are being studied by the VPAA’s office
 - D. Georgia State University has taken over the state’s community colleges. Impact is uncertain.
 - E. Administration very excited about dual enrollment programs with local high schools.. May be expanded
 - F. TBRF is establishing two MOOCs: AP statistics preparation similar to our Math 1530, and an AP course similar to our English 1010. These are Advance Placement preparation only (not for credit).
 - G. Murfreesboro attorney Evan Cope was elected the chair of the Tennessee Higher education Commission (THEC).He is the grandson of Quill Evan Cope, MTSU president 1958-1968.
 - H. The Chairs Council and Deans Council both unanimously approved the Faculty Senate TAF resolution. Both groups were very complementary of the Senate’s efforts in this area.
 - I. The family/work report is on D2L

Alfred Lutz (TBR Sub-Council)

- * Scholarship & grant programs will be broadened. If you teach overseas you may be able to take a student assistant.
- * Rolling contracts are being debated
- * Disability services moving from “accommodation” to “access.” TBR thinks program changes will take 10 years or more.
- * Fiscal state of state has slightly improved. Raises are “unlikely but not impossible.”
- * TSAC (Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation) will prepare advising documents about the Hope Scholarship program.

Trish Farwell: First round of forms for committee volunteers has been sent out.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.