
Members Present – M. Arndt, S. Boyd, T. Brinthaup, N. Callender, B. Canak, R. Clark, C. Cooper, L. Craig-Unkefer, W. Cribb, K. Darby, J. Dooley, L. Dubek, T. Farwell, G. Freeman, G. Freeman, C. Harris, R. Heinrich, R. Henderson, M. Hinz, R. Hoffman, P. Kelly, A. Lutz, S. Mangrum, K. Mathis, F. Miyakawa, K. N. Nofsinger, D. Patterson, G. Pisut, C. Rosenmuller, P. Wall, M. Weller, D. Winborn

Members Absent – M. Baggarly, L. Clark, S. Daugherty, P. Fischer, T. Greer, C. Li, S. Rawls, M. Rice, L. Selva, C. Stephens,

Members Excused – C. Beauchamp, J. Brickey, L. Burriss, K. Butler, G. Zlotky, J. Maynor, P. West Osterfield

Additional Attendees – B. Allen, R. Kirk, L. Witherow, M. Boyle

Agenda

1. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.
2. Approval of February 13, 2011 Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Travel: \$ -175.55
 - b. Operating Expenses: \$1856.74
 - c. Foundation Account: \$438.89
4. Old Business
 - a. Academic Misconduct Policy: The Senate was assured by the President that MTSU's policy meets the guidelines and would stand up to legal scrutiny.
 - b. Faculty Assessment of Vice Presidents: The President's view that faculty assessment of VPs tends to degenerate to personal issues was presented. The Senate is currently investigating the University of Memphis' VP assessment program.
 - c. Instructor Absence Notification Policy: The Provost and the IT Department are investigating options to provide for these notifications.
5. New Business

- a. Campus Non-Violence Committee: Several members of the committee presented the committee's current efforts. They are investigating different forms of classroom disruption and have done so in several departments. Bill Allen (harry.allen@mtsu.edu) and Rachel Kirk (rakirk@mtsu.edu) requested feedback from faculty on this issue. The committee is separated into groups. Another group is investigating the current reporting structure for violence related issues. The committee is interviewing Judicial Affairs, Legal Council, and other campus departments/offices. The committee's charge is to monitor the campus for potential violence. The committee was reconvened on the recommendation of the Senate. A subgroup of the committee is tasked with literature review on the subject of on-campus violence. The current campus climate is the focus of the committee's efforts. On-campus housing is not a current focus of the committee; however, a student survey of relevant issues is planned. The committee was made aware of the issue of large vs. small classes. The committee is speaking primarily to faculty members. A suggestion was made to speak to administrators and staff as well.
- b. Faculty Senate Officer Nominations: Elections for next year's Senate Officers will be held next month.
- c. Enrollment Management Strategic Plan: The studies being referred to in addition to the statistics presented in the proposed plan are being questioned. A recommendation to "trade growth for quality" was discussed. The document discusses both growth to 30,000 as well as increasing ACT scores. Another recommendation for MTSU to change the mix of students was discussed. It was explained that this means more graduate, out of State, and international students. A 1% drop in retention corresponds to a loss of \$1 million from the budget. A question was asked concerning retention numbers presented in the document. It was explained that an increased graduation rate would correspond to a decrease in retention. Faculty attendance in meetings concerning this document was discussed. The disconnect between enrollment and retention was discussed as well as the lack of mention of faculty in the process. Displeasure with the lack of faculty input into the formation of the current document was shared. The document was critiqued as being hard to follow. A statement of MTSU's current enrollment/retention plan, a section stating how this is/is not working and a clear proposal for the future was requested. The President is the targeted audience for the proposal, but it was stated that the audience should be much broader. The rich expertise of the faculty on campus which could assist in the process was discussed. Invitations to specific individuals with expertise to participate on the committee were suggested. It was suggested that a group of expert faculty work on this proposal. Mike Boyle shared that a large sum of money was spent on the consulting firms which performed the study. The document did not present a solution to the growth vs. ACT score issue. A TN high school 3.0GPA may not be translatable to an MTSU graduation rate given TN's low educational ranking; however, Laurie stated that MTSU students with high school GPAs of 3.0 or greater have higher retention rates than students with high ACT but lower GPA. The proposal does not include a plan to increase graduate student funding. Mike Boyle stated that

MTSU desires graduate students who will pay as opposed to having graduate students on University funded assistantships. Retention rates by college were discussed. Since the University is composed of vastly different departments, it was recommended that the plan needs to evaluate retention issues for specific colleges and/or departments as opposed to only the University as a whole. Graduation rates/retention by race is not discussed in the document. Representation by three faculty members on the committee was suggested. Faculty with expertise are desired. The lack of resources to support current graduate programs was highlighted in light of the University's desire to increase the number of graduate students on campus.

6. Action Items:

- a. Feedback should be given to the Campus Nonviolence Committee regarding on-campus issues.
- b. Senators should identify potential candidates for next year's Senate Officers.
- c. Kim requested a Senator to attend the upcoming TUFs meeting which he cannot attend.
- d. Kim will approach the President regarding faculty representation on the committee developing the University's retention plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender
2011-2012 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: Gay L. Johnson