
Members Present – M. Arndt, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, T. Brinthaup, N. Brooks, L. Burriss, N. Callender, B. Canak, L. Clark, C. Cooper, L. Craig-Unkefer, K. Darby, L. Dubek, T. Farwell, M. Fleming, G. Freeman, C. Harris, M. Knight, A. Lutz, S. Mangrum, J. Maynor, J. McCormick, A. McCullough, W. Means, F. Miyakawa, D. Patterson, S. Roberts, C. Rosenmuller, B. Rushlow, L. Selva, C. Stephens, C. True, J. Wasik, M. Weller, P. West Osterfield, A. Williams, D. Winborn, G. Zlotky

Members Absent – R. Clark, C. Li, K. Mathis, M. Nichols, G. Pisut,

Members Excused – C. Beauchamp, M. Hinz, R. Hoffman, P. Kelly, K. N. Nofsinger, P. Wall

Additional Attendees – B. Bartel (Provost), J. Cain (Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee representative), S. McPhee (President), B. Petryshak (Vice President of Information Technology)

Agenda

1. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.
2. Approval of April 9, 2012 Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Travel: \$-175.55
 - b. Operating Expenses: \$1,767.19
 - c. Foundation Account: \$440.89
4. Old Business
 - a.
5. New Business
 - a. President McPhee welcomed Michael and the new Senators to the Senate. He stated that the draft Enrollment Management Plan feedback has been received from the Senate and the Chair's Council. He stated that all substantive comments have been addressed. He emphasized that the document is still in draft form. He stated that the Senate and

Chair's Council will be the first campus groups to see the document prior to wider campus distribution. The President recommended ibuprofen when shaking over 2,000 hands.

- b. New Senators: Michael introduced the new Senators. Michael reminded all Senators of the responsibility of attending meetings and passing information along to their respective departments and/or colleges as well as soliciting feedback from them.
- c. Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee: Jimmy thanked the Senate for forwarding this issue to the President. He stated that an increase in veteran students is anticipated due to a reduction in force (RIF). MTSU is the only public higher education institution in TN to receive a Veterans' Affairs Success Liaison. He presented several motions contained in a handout distributed via email. The motions included the granting of priority registration, an amended attendance policy, and a new position (or faculty member with release time) to oversee veterans' issues. Examples of military duties which could provide reason for granting excused absences were requested. Jimmy provided several such as natural disaster and rescue operations. Mr. Wasik gave a personal example from 2008 with hurricane Gustov. The proactivity of affected students was highlighted. A special designation for veteran students on class rolls was suggested. There are currently 1,800 students receiving the GI Bill. Jimmy expects this number to double (or triple) over the next few years. He shared that veterans would like credit for continuing education received in the military. The GI Bill can be used through graduate school. When referring to the timeliness of soldiers, Jimmy used the word punctilious! Jimmy was thanked for such a well formed and clean proposal. The issue was tabled until the next meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow priority registration for veterans. The excused absence motion was discussed in order to specify which types of duty assignments are excusable. It was proposed that the student must present orders. The initial communication may be verbal; however, written orders must be presented. This would not excuse the student from the responsibility of submitting assignments. The third sentence to the excused absence motion was amended as follows: While this notice may be initially verbal, written documentation must follow. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. Education modules on post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were recommended for faculty along with additional counseling personnel for this potentially increasing student population.
- d. Steering Committee Election: Ballots were distributed. Two nominations per college were solicited. Michael provided the responsibilities of the Steering Committee for consideration. The meetings typically begin at 3:00PM on either Mondays or Wednesdays, once a month. The nominees were as follows: Lesley Craig-Unkefer (Education), Charlene True (Education), Nita Brooks (Business), Sherry Roberts (Business), Linda Clark (University), Annette Williams (University), Cathy Cooper (Behavioral & Health Sciences), Doug Winborn (Behavioral & Health Sciences), Bonnie Rushlow (Liberal Arts), Felicia Miyakawa (Liberal Arts), Larry Burris (Mass Communication), and Tricia Farwell (Mass Communication). A motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect

the nominees. No Steering Team meetings are scheduled during the summer.

- e. President's Report: Michael introduced the returning Recording Secretary (Nate Callender) and the President-to-be (Scott Boyd).
- f. TBR Sub Council Report: Alfred explained his roll on the TBR Sub Council. He presented the evaluation of administrators by faculty. A recommendation regarding this will come from the TBR. MTSU's proposal on Academic Misconduct will not be considered at TBR. In light of this, the proposal may be added to MTSU's campus policy. The Academic Freedom statement from TBR will not be amended following a recent MTSU proposal. Legal council's reasoning on this is requested. Alfred shared that some faculty members have been told by their administration that they have no business speaking with Legislators. The distinction between interaction as an individual and as an agent of the institution was not differentiated.
- g. TUFS Report: In light of TBR's refusal to accept suggestions regarding the TBR Academic Freedom Policy, TUFS has asked that institutions decide whether or not they want new language added to their institutional policies. TUFS would also like the following information regarding each institutions "instructional non-tenure track faculty members": how many, strategic plans regarding percentages of these faculty, and what is the target percentage. It was suggested that Gay collect this information. TBR Legal Counsel has determined the current policy regarding Academic Misconduct does not prohibit institutions from adding more specific language concerning instructors' authority. Alfred presented two options: attempt to have the Senate's proposal added to MTSU's policy, or insist that TBR move the proposal forward.
- h. Alfred discussed the number of over 200 for-profit private educational organizations in the State. These organizations want access to Lottery Scholarship funds and to be able to have courses transfer to TBR institutions.
- i. Summer Faculty Senate Meeting: June 11th is set as the tentative date.
- j. Summer Retreat: The Senate Retreat is scheduled for August 22 in the Foundation House. The retreat will be from 8:30AM to 3:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender
2012-2013 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: Gay Johnson, August 13, 2012