
Members Present: Kathryn Blankenship, Alan Boehm, Andrew Brower, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Laura Cochrane, Mark Doyle, Tricia Farwell, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Tina Hall, Joshua Harms, Pippa Holloway, Yang Kim, Paul Kline, Vanessa Lefler, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, John Pennington, Joshua Phillips, Ariana Postlethwait, Michael Principe, Terry Quinn, Deana Raffo, Jason Reineke, Michael Rice, Lauren Rudd, Saleh Sbenaty, Kristi Shamburger, Mary Ellen Sloane, Donald Snead, Sherri Stevens, Kristen West, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent: Mark Abolins, Don Aliquo, Murat Arik, Tyler Babb, Tammy Bahmanziari, Martha Balachandran, Tom Black, Mamit Deme, Tim Greer, Robert Kalwinsky, Shane Smith, Michelle Stevens, Deborah Wagnon

Members Excused: Nat Smith

Agenda

1. President Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.
2. David Otts moved to approve the minutes of the March 13/April 10, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by voice vote.
3. As of May 1, 372 faculty members had voted on the proposed change to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to allow the addition of senate committees that parallel committees of the MTSU Board of Trustees. So far, 349 faculty members have voted to approve the change and 10 faculty have abstained. Voting (via Research.net) ends May 5. The Senate will establish its new committees in the fall. Volunteers are needed to attend Board committee meetings during the summer.
4. Mary Martin presented a motion from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to amend the Senate Bylaws to provide for a Senate Policy Consultant. The proposed amendment was researched and prepared by a subcommittee chaired by Michael Rice. The amendment as presented:

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Section 8. The President shall designate a member of the Faculty Senate or a member of the faculty at his/her discretion to serve as Policy Consultant. The Policy Consultant will be charged with providing current information regarding policy and/or policy changes to the Faculty Senate; the Policy Consultant will be accessible to act as a resource to all faculty to address policy questions as possible. The Policy Consultant shall serve a term of two years and may be replaced at any time by the Faculty Senate President for just reason (e.g., illness, resignation of elected seat). The Policy Consultant may serve multiple consecutive terms provided continuation is at the request of the current President of the Faculty Senate. The Policy Consultant has no vote or position in the Faculty Senate due to the role of this position.

The motion was seconded and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

5. Mary Martin presented a motion from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to amend the Senate Bylaws to provide for a Faculty Ombudsperson.

The amendment as presented:

Section 9. The Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate shall elect a tenured member of the faculty to serve as Faculty Ombudsperson. The Faculty Ombudsperson must be teaching more than 50% during his/her term of service. The Ombudsperson will be charged to act as an independent, knowledgeable resource for faculty as issues arise which cross boundaries or are impacted by policy concerns. Since the role is defined by the Faculty Senate, the Ombudsperson has no official standing and no direct role in shared governance other than that conveyed as a member of the faculty; he/she will be accessible to act as a resource to all faculty to provide information and ideas to help solve issues arising within the context of the academe and that have not risen to the level of formal complaint; the objective of the Ombudsperson would be to provide alternatives to the adversarial process. The Ombudsperson will provide a basis of organizational and policy knowledge, taking a neutral role at all times. The Ombudsperson will assist in problem solving only from an informal advisory position; within the requirements of legal statute, the Ombudsperson will respect the confidentiality of those who consult with him/her. The Ombudsperson will be capable of directing individuals to appropriate official channels as necessary. The Ombudsperson shall serve a term of two years and may be replaced at any time by the Faculty Senate President for just reason (e.g., illness, resignation of elected seat, change in work assignment, etc.). The Ombudsperson may serve multiple consecutive terms provided continuation is at the request of the current President of the Faculty Senate. The Ombudsperson shall provide a general, summative report to the Faculty Senate in order to allow the consideration of trends over time; this report will be forwarded to the President and the Provost of the University by the Faculty Senate President.

After discussion about the Ombudsperson's eligibility to serve on department or college promotion and tenure committees, required training for an ombudsperson, the

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advisability of consulting University Counsel and the Chairs Council, David Otts moved that the proposed amendment be returned to committee for revision. The motion was seconded and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

6. Larry Burriss moved that the Senate extend an invitation to Tony Johnston, faculty representative of the Board, to attend all the meetings of the Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded. After discussion of Dr. Johnston's role as representative of MTSU "employees" or MTSU "faculty and staff," the motion passed by voice vote.

7. Dr. Martin presented a motion in support of proposed MTSU SGA Resolution 13-17-S, which requests "professors shall supply approximate percentages along with the corresponding letter grades on progress and final reports at Middle Tennessee State University." Larry Burriss moved to table the motion. Discussion followed, in which Dr. Martin said that sponsoring SGA Senator Emily Lupo, along with the SGA President and President-Elect, indicated the proposed resolution is a response to complaints from students who say some faculty assign a blanket C for all mid-semester progress reports regardless of individual student work. The SGA representatives also received complaints from students who have trouble translating the letter grade on a progress report into a corresponding percentage. Larry Burriss amended his previous motion to table to move that the Senate vote to take no action regarding the proposed SGA resolution. The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous voice vote. Dr. Martin will convey the Senate's decision to the SGA and suggest they consider a new or revised resolution that more clearly reflects their intention.

8. Deanna Raffo volunteered to serve as Faculty Senate Recording Secretary for the 2017-2018 academic year.

9. Steering Committee elections for 2017-2018 will likely be held in May. Dr. Martin asked for a response from current Steering Committee members who are willing to serve again.

10. Dr. Martin distributed a written list of announcements (attached), and then highlighted several items on the list:

4. Pippa Holloway has provided instructions for setting up e-mail notices for changes to the Board website.

6. Senators should watch for the Provost to distribute information resulting from the work of the ad-hoc committee on Faculty Workload.

7. A report of the most recent Association of Tennessee Faculty Senates (TUFS) meeting will be posted on the Faculty Senate web site.

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8. The ad-hoc Compensation Advisory Committee recommended that the salary increase be applied to all faculty and staff across the board, with a minimum \$1,000 increase.
 15. Dr. Martin last heard that the University is hiring about 40 faculty from a total of 73 recent or ongoing searches.
 17. Searches for Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Programs should be concluded this month.
 22. Faculty Senate chambers are to receive new flooring. Interior of the JUB will be repainted with oil-based paint.
11. Bill Canak briefly reported on the TBR Spring Collaborative Meeting of April 19. The faculty subcouncil spent much of the meeting discussing how best to accommodate students who have disabilities.
12. Dr. Martin presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing Senators.
13. Dr. Martin reported that MTSU Campus Planning is planning site improvements for the central campus quadrangle that will include a feature commemorating MTSU Faculty Senate's 50th anniversary. The feature will have space to honor 100 faculty senate presidents. Pavers to honor faculty members will be available for purchase.
14. President-Elect Joey Gray expressed special thanks to Dr. Mary Martin for her service and leadership as Faculty Senate President this year, and highlighted Dr. Martin's careful review and evaluation of the intensive MTSU policy revision process.
15. Mary Martin adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Attachments:

MTSU SGA Resolution 13-17-S
Announcements

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen West
2016-2017 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary