

Faculty Senate  
11/10/2014

The MTSU Faculty Senate met Nov. 10, 2014 in the Senate Chambers.

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

Members Absent: Tom Black (excused), Scott Boyd, John Dugan (excused), Mark Doyle (excused), Joseph Hawkins (excused), Steve Howard, Willis Means (excused), Joel Miller, Sherry Roberts, Charlene True (excused), Barbara Turnage

President William Canak recognized newly promoted & tenured senators.

1. Minutes from the Oct. 15, 2014, were approved.
2. Treasurer's report approved
3. Lori Kissinger (speech and theater), executive director, Tennessee Very Special Arts (VSA) program.
  - \* MTSU has largest ADA population of any TN school
  - \* Tennessee is in charge of this year's international VSA program, and Ms. Kissinger is soliciting help from the MTSU community.
  - \* MTSU Human Sciences will help create an ADA-themed quilt that will be on display on campus then at the Kennedy Center.
4. Provost Brad Bartel
  - \* MTSU's proposed budget went to TBR on Oct 15
  - \* Academic affairs met their budget, primarily by suspending most faculty searches for the coming year.
  - \* Retention is critical
  - \* New categories to investigate:
    - Home school students
    - Adult learners
      - Ft Campbell soldiers transitioning to civilian life
      - Previous adult learners who dropped out (4,600 in this category)
      - Dual enrollment for high school students

- \* 56,000+ high school students have signed up for Tennessee Promise  
Some are being forced to sign up
- \* Not sure of impact of Tennessee Promise
- \* State estimates MTSU will lose 500-700 first-time freshmen. We normally admit approximately 3,000
- \* President McPhee and Provost Bartel will meet with TBR Chancellor Morgan to discuss out-of-state enrollments
- \* Provost Bartel will suggest either 250 mile radius “inclusion zone” around Murfreesboro or that all contiguous states get in-state tuition
- \* North Alabama & North Georgia are prime candidates

5. Dean Terry Whiteside

- \* “There is no body on this campus more important than this one [the Faculty Senate].”
- \* “We have got to retain students”
- \* “My position regarding the departments is to keep my hands off”
- \* Exercise Science: The underwater treadmill is changing lives
- \* Money and declining enrollments are our main weaknesses and threats
- \* “The dean is just part of the “assembly line” in the process”
- \* “A lot of decisions are being made by people who haven’t been faculty.”
- \* We need more senior leadership in nursing
- \* Need more collaboration between departments and colleges

6. THEC data on for-profit schools conflicts with NCES data.

- \* THEC may be including “licensing schools”
- \* Data will be on D2L site

7. University standing committee updates have been sent to Provost Bartel, and will now go to legal.

- \* Still some back-and-forth with interested parties
- \* Library representation: A motion was made to allow a representative from new library department. Passed.
- \* The Senate needs to form election committee with two representatives from each college.
- \* A motion was made and seconded to have steering committee be election committee. Passed.

8. FRCAC funding has declined from previous levels.
- 9A. Discussion of alternative class schedules
  - \* Janet McCormick reported the A1 and A2 accelerated classes have worked well for last five years
- 9B. There is apparently no prohibition against Saturday or Sunday classes
- 9C. Faculty sentiment appears to be against moving fall break to Thanksgiving week.
- 9D. Institutional Research will conduct a poll to determine student opinion relative to scheduling
10. Course redesign resolutions from the History Department will be put resolutions on D2L for discussion at the December senate meeting.
11. Senators were encouraged to look at the EAB Dashboard as a useful resource for dealing with enrollment issues.
12. Provost Bartel appears happy with proposals for new lecturer positions. Discussions will continue.
13. The Senate will solicit comments regarding the new advising positions.
  - \* It is too soon for meaningful comments, although there appears to be some confusion (advisors teaching, advisors don't "live" the program, students still want to see faculty advisor, can new advisors talk about minors, etc.)
14. TBR update will be put on D2L
  - \* TBR will conduct a study to look at member schools' perceptions of the board.
  - \* TBR will conduct a series of four-hour institutional briefings to assess issues relating to funding, enrollments, etc.
  - \* TBR is proposing new department for course redesign
  - \* Workload decisions are campus-based policies
  - \* TBR research journal will be published in December
  - \* TBR will begin a new initiative to reduce textbook costs.
  - \* TBR is developing a Library Task Force to study holdings by member schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.