

Steering
20141103

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee met at 3:00 p.m., Nov. 3, 2014.

Members Present: Tom Black, Scott Boyd, Larry Burriss, William Canak, John Dougan, Trisha Farwell, Michelle Finch, Joey Gray, Rhonda Hoffman, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Scott McDaniel, Willis Means, Janet McCormick, Jason Reineke

Members Absent: Mamit Deme, Brian Hinote (excused), Deana Raffo (conference)

1. THEC retention data.
 - A. President Canak will post data on the Senate D2L site.
 - B. THEC & TBR data are “wildly different,” as they appear to be using different definitions of “schools,” etc.
2. Tricia Farwell: Bylaws
 - A. Changing volunteer form re committees that have specific requirements
 - B. All proposed changes have been sent to legal
 - C. New library department should have a full member. Senate will allow until change approved by full faculty vote in the fall
3. 4. Accelerated Classes
 - A. A1 & A2 currently allowed in grad classes. Can we do that for undergrad?
 - B. As a point of information, there appears to be nothing in policy that prohibits weekend classes, including Saturday and Sunday
5. Moving Fall Break to Thanksgiving week
 - A. The Steering Committee seems split on the issue.
 - B. This is an item for discussion with the full Faculty Senate.
 - C. Question: Can city, county and MTSU coordinate breaks?
6. Workload Forms
 - A. The forms should match reality, but that will put most faculty into an overload situation, which has Labor Department and budget implications.
 - B. Some departments are allowing faculty to list all activities, but then “zero out” any activities that go over 37.5 hours per week.

7. Resolutions from the History Department regarding course redesign and enrollment
 - A. History Department representatives (Pippa Holloway, Susan Myers-Shirk, Ken Scherzer) presented resolutions proposing faculty involvement in University committees working with enrollment issues, and proposing faculty control of course redesign.
 - B. President Canak said he would present the resolutions to the full Senate.
8. Marketing Committee: No report
9. Interdisciplinary Program Majors:
 - A. There is currently no data on the impact this program will have on existing major programs.
 - B. There is on-going discussions with deans and department chairs asking if “special topic” programs are drawing existing majors away from regular departments.
10. Research Administration:
 - A. Grants and contracts are down.
 - B. MTSU has \$13-million in grants & contracts, down from \$39-million just a few years ago.
11. TBR Sub-Council
 - A. TBR will be conducting a self-study regarding the perception of TBR by constituents
 - B. “Institutional Briefings” have been mandated by the state legislature. They are designed to study “Efficiencies” (cost-saving measures, student success, etc.)
 - C. A Library Task Force: looking to find commonalities particularly with respect to General Education courses.
 - D. Library microforms are being transformed to digital, but there are questions about how to dispose of the films, since they may contain toxic material.

Other: There is apparently a new unfunded ADA mandate from TBR requiring subtitles be placed in video media. The conversion will cost approximately approx. \$1.5-million. Schools in other states have lost relevant lawsuits regarding similar requirements

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.