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Members Present: Mark Abolins, Murat Arik, Tyler Babb, Martha Balachandran, Kathryn Blankenship, Andrew Brower, Larry Burriss, Mark Doyle, Tricia Farwell, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Tina Hall, Joshua Harms, Pippa Holloway, Yang Kim, Paul Kline, Rachel Leander, Vanessa Lefler, Cen Li, Alfred Lutz Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Scott McDaniel, David Otts, John Pennington, Ariana Postlethwait, Michael Principe, Deana Raffo, Jason Reineke, Michael Rice, Lauren Rudd, Saleh Sbenaty, Kristi Shamburger, Nat Smith, Donald Snead, Sherri Stevens, Michelle Stevens, Deborah Wagnon, Kristen West, Zhifu Yang

Members Absent: Don Aliquo, Tammy Bahmanziari, Tom Black, Mamit Deme, Tim Greer, Shane Smith

Members Excused: Alan Boehm, William Canak, Laura Cochrane, Robert Kalwinsky, Terry Quinn, Mary Ellen Sloane

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## Agenda

1. Roll Call: President Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

## 2. Proposed Motion from TUFs Guns on Campus for Students

At the September 2016 meeting, Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFs), composed of the six TBR universities and four UT campuses, proposed a resolution that opposes state legislation that will allow students to have guns on campus. If six member senates vote to approve the resolution, it will be forwarded to the state legislature. No amendments or changes can be proposed. Proposed resolution states:

### Proposed Resolution—Guns on Campus for Students

WHEREAS, the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFs), which represents over 10,000 faculty at ten public universities, supports the position of campus law enforcement and safety officials that allowing students to have guns on campus will increase the incidence of events of violence, and

WHEREAS, allowing students to have guns on campus will foster a hostile work environment for faculty, staff, and students employed on campus,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the membership of TUFs strongly opposes any legislation that will allow students to have guns on campus.

Discussion: Vanessa Lefler inquired about the “campus law enforcement” wording and whether the police chief of each university was consulted. Dr. Martin replied that yes, she and the other faculty senate presidents all spoke with their respective police chief to ask his or her opinion on this matter. Vote: The resolution was approved by voice vote.

Dr. Martin also said that the TUFs executive committee plans to write to Lt. Governor Ramsey and other key legislators to raise concerns about legislative matters affecting higher education in Tennessee.

### 3. Election of Faculty Member to the MTSU Governing Board

Each of the five nominees spoke to the Senate for a maximum of five minutes (without other nominees in the room). Speaking order was randomly determined: Tony Johnston, Larry Burriss, Robert Blair, Alfred Lutz, Tricia Farwell. Following the speeches, Dr. Martin explained the voting procedures and opened the floor for discussion.

#### Voting Procedures:

- Voting by paper ballot.
- The first vote in which a candidate meets the requirement for a majority of the votes, the voting is complete.
- If a decision is not made during the first vote, the following procedure will be followed.
  - Two votes are taken with the full ballot.
  - The ballot is then made smaller following the process described here: Person (or persons, if there is a tie for least number of votes) receiving fewest number of votes is removed from the ballot and voting on the new ballot proceeds. If a majority decision occurs, voting is complete. If votes are still distributed among several candidates, the person on this ballot with fewest votes is removed. This step is then repeated.
  - In the event of a tie between remaining two nominees: Take one more vote. If the tie still exists, break the tie with a coin flip.

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- Joey Gray, as President-elect will count votes; she has invited another faculty member, Kristi Phillips, to help her.
- No absentee voting will be allowed due the potential for multiple votes. Senators who will be absent from the meeting may designate another faculty member to act as proxy by email notice to the Faculty Senate President (copied to Faculty Senate Secretary) before the meeting or proxy may bring a signed, printed statement to the meeting. Anyone may serve as a proxy who meets the qualifications for membership in the Faculty Senate and who has the trust of the missing Senator. It is assumed that the Senator will provide instructions to the proxy regarding his/her voting wishes.

Discussion: One senator made a brief comment prior to the first vote.

Outcome of voting: Tony Johnston was elected with a majority vote on the third ballot. Forty votes were cast. Voting records will be available for viewing in the Faculty Senate offices.

Dr. Martin urged senators to document anything about the selection and voting process that they think should be changed for the future. Although Governor Haslam could override the faculty's selection of a trustee, he has indicated he won't do so. Final appointment is also subject to approval by the state legislature.

Mary Martin adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen West  
2016-2017 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary