
Members Present – M. Baggarly, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, T. Brinthaup, L. Burriss, N. Callender, B. Canak, L. Clark, R. Clark, C. Cooper, L. Craig-Unkefer, W. Cribb, K. Darby, J. Dooley, L. Dubek, G. Freeman, P. Fischer, G. Freeman, R. Henderson, M. Hinz, R. Hoffman, P. Kelly, Z. Khan, M. Knight, A. Lutz, S. Mangrum, K. Mathis, F. Miyakawa, K. N. Nofsinger, M. Rice, C. Rosenmuller, L. Selva, P. Wall, M. Weller, P. West Osterfield, D. Winborn, G. Zlotky

Members Absent – M. Arndt, C. Beauchamp, K. Butler, S. Daugherty, T. Greer, C. Harris, R. Heinrich, C. Li, J. Maynor, D. Patterson, G. Pisut, S. Rawls, C. Stephens

Members Excused –

Additional Attendees –

Agenda

1. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.
2. Approval of September 12, 2011 Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Travel – \$175.55
 - b. Operating Expenses – \$2,357.43
 - c. Foundation Account – \$478.44
4. Presentation(s)
 - a. President McPhee and Dr. Sells – The President began speaking about the reality of the Complete College Act and its requirement regarding retention and graduation. He stated that now is the time to show progress within the reality of the new requirements. He shared that the new requirements for retention and graduation are everyone's business. MTSU is currently 3rd in the State regarding graduation and retention. He said that we may need to begin looking at higher admission standards as well as incentivized recruitment opportunities.

Dr. McPhee foresees that even in light of gains in recruitment and graduation, MTSU may stand to lose appropriations given the possibility that UT may garner large research dollars thereby taking funds from MTSU. He wants our numbers to be strong so that we may make a strong case for ourselves if this occurs. Dr. Sells stated that we need to increase our numbers, but we must do so more than other institutions in order to increase our portion of state appropriations. She then stated that people are not flocking to MTSU as in the past due to the economy. She brought up the idea of admission standards. She shared the admission standards: guaranteed High School GPA of 3.0 or 22 on ACT. Dr. Sells presented a handout regarding our admission standards and the University's capacity. She shared that the Graduate School would like to be a larger portion of the student mix (15% desired). She discussed other student groups to think about: transfers, first time freshmen and international students. She stated that advising of transfer students is very important particularly regarding the Pathway from Community Colleges. Dr. Sells then gave a handout regarding student retention. This handout covered the early reporting system. She shared the recent success of the new system. Dr. McPhee stated that the 14th day enrollment numbers were no longer important. Instead the end of term enrollment is crucial. A question was asked regarding this end of term enrollment number. Dr. McPhee replied that THEC will use this metric as our enrollment number. K class student retention was questioned. Dr. Sells said that many students need these classes. Dr. McPhee maintained that the retention numbers are comparable for students who take K classes. Students from Community Colleges were discussed as being a potential target for recruitment. Dr. Sells stated that the Faculty should take the steps to make this happen for our respective students. Where students pursuing 2nd degrees fall in the funding formula was questioned. This was unknown. The best predictor of graduation for current students was discussed. Whether we know this or not was asked.

- b. The Senate separated into small groups and discussed recruiting, retention and graduation. Several minutes were dedicated to sharing the ideas generated. Someone asked whether additional funds would be given to support graduate programs. Dr. McPhee stated that it would have to come from somewhere within the University. He said that he would come up with ways to support successful programs. Dr. McPhee said that a professional program would not be considered for MTSU. The fact that increasing standards in order to increase retention may balance each other out for no net gains was discussed. Admissions standards may drop enrollment over the short term. The times which are important for funding are the 30, 60 and 90 hour marks for students as well as graduation. Each progressive hourly mark is worth more than the previous mark.

5. Old Business

- a. Academic Misconduct Policy – Kim shared that after a discussion with Ms. Zimmerman, MTSU can add to the Institution's policy regarding academic misconduct.

6. New Business

- a. ETSU request to TBR Chancellor for tenure-related legislation – Backpay for faculty members who were let go and then exonerated was discussed.
- b. Mass Communications New Senator – The new member from Mass Communications, Tricia Farwell, was introduced and voted onto the Steering Committee.
- c. A handout was given regarding dates for summer 2012 classes. The June and July terms are now 4 weeks instead of 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender
2011-2012 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: