Faculty Senate
10/14/2014


Members Absent: Tom Black, John Dougan (excused), Paul Fischer (excused), Sekou Franklin, Clay Harris, Preston MacDougall (excused), Jason Reineke (excused)

1. Minutes from the Oct. 14, 2014 meeting were approved.

2. Treasurer’s Report
   - General budget $1,412.40 plus approximately $240 due to changes in phones in office
   - Travel - $699.06
   - Foundation - $429.16

3. Lance Alexis (Director, Disability and Access Center) spoke regarding the recording of classroom lectures as an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation.
   - Questions about D&AC students recording classroom lectures are handled on a case-by-case basis.
   - Any accommodation is a recommendation only, but a denial has to be justified as an interference with normal classroom activity.
   - Any particular classroom accommodation has to be “reasonable.”

   Procedure:
   - Student makes a request for an accommodation
   - D&AC makes an accommodation recommendation to the faculty member
   - If the faculty member feels the accommodation will cause a fundamental alteration to the class, then an alternative can be discussed with the student and D&AC
   - Discomfort on the part of another student to being recorded cannot trump accommodation.

4. Ken Paulson, dean of the college of Mass Communication as part of the continuing “Dean of the Month” series:
   - Students today are different media people than “we” were
   - The feeling among students is: Why should we memorize when we can look it up?
   - The world is their neighborhood
   - They Want to be entertained

   Notable “outside” activities:
In dealing with students we should respect their dreams, but give them a dose of reality. Must foster traditional educational values with modern tools.

Faculty governance
On his arrival in 2013 Dr. Paulson met individually with each person in the college. Faculty governance means faculty have to participate in the governance.

We are turning out digital citizens with an ability to communication
Write
Research
Have comfort level with technology
Students have to understand their role in a democracy.

Records may disappear, but music will not
Networks may disappear, but story tellers will not
Newspapers may disappear, but reporters will not

Wants to move the college towards becoming a center for entertainment journalism.

5. An ad hoc bylaw revision committee was formed, consisting of Trish Farwell, John Dougan, Annette Williams and Mary Martin

6. President-Elect Farwell introduced policy revisions related to the composition of standing committees formation. The revisions were approved.

7. Secretary Wendi Watts spoke about the upcoming Employee Giving Campaign

8. Summary report from President’s Cabinet Retreat by President Canak:
   Discussed the MTSU emphasis on student “Quest for Success”
   Discussed continuing university efforts for SACS review
   Budget uncertainty is based on enrollment uncertainty
   Budget figures as of July 2014:
   MTSU E&G, including auxiliaries $314,917,200
   Restricted $ 94,550,000
   Tuition and Fees $184,864,000
   From state appropriation $ 82,429,100
9. Updates by President Canak:
Tina Hall was approved as the Behavioral and Health Sciences representative on the Steering/Liaison Committee.

Provost Brad Bartel is proposing a 15%-20% reduction in reassigned time because of budget concerns.
Will this only affect reassigned time for research?
Will administrative reassigned time be impacted? Provost Bartel says no.
Chairs Council concern: Who is approval authority for reassigned time: department chairs or provost?
Chairs Council concern: What will be the impact on research?
What is “extra” research above & beyond what is normally expected?
Is there accountability & documentation? Generally no.
Will faculty cut 15%-20% of their research/public service time?

Provost Bartel has expressed concern about the high number of honor designations (cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude) awarded to students. In a related matter, the Steering Committee supports not counting pre-MTSU courses in a student’s overall grade point average.

Student affairs would like more faculty representation on Blue Tour activities. President Canak would like a formal invitation from Student Affairs to participate.

Video from the recent Work/Life Imbalance Conference is available on the LTITC web site.
Deanna Raffo, Mark Doyle, Mamit Deme offered to serve on a committee to study work/life imbalance issues.
MTSU is highest workload of any peer schools.
Most schools are 3/2.
MTSU is 4/4.

The Provost would like the Faculty Senate to help develop qualifications and promotion criteria for Lecturer / Senior Lecturer / Master Lecturer positions.
William Canak, Trish Farwell, Larry Burriss, Alfred Lutz and Scott Boyd will to meet with the provost to discuss the new positions.

Can assistant deans sit on promotion and tenure committees? No, they are administrators.

10. TBR representative Lutz: No report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.