Faculty Senate Steering
10/06/2014


Members Absent:  Mamit Deme, Michelle Finch, Joey Gray, Willis Means

Guests (representing the Chairs Council):  Steve Morris, Rebecca Smith

1. Meeting called to order by President Canak.

2. Minutes from previous meeting approved

3. Discussion of reassigned time
   Chairs Council reps
   Rebecca Smith, chair
   Steve Morris, chair-elect
   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?
   How is reassigned time handled at other schools?

4. Tina Hall was approved as the Behavioral and Health Sciences representative on the Steering/Liaison Committee

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

6. Discussion:  There needs to be a transition plan for helping students change from faculty advisors to academic advisors.
   Question:  What is the role of the new advisors?  Course selection?  Job preparation?  Other academic areas?

7. President-elect Farwell presented proposed changes to various MTSU committees (see attached changes).
8. **Discussion:** Provost Bartel has expressed concern about the high number of honor designations (cum laude, magna cum laude, 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.

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

10. Deanna Raffo presented information about an upcoming seminar dealing with Work/Life Imbalance.
    **Discussion:** Are faculty supposed to be available 24/7?
    **Discussion:** Student expectations of faculty availability
    **Recommendation:** Put the seminar PowerPoint and video on Faculty Senate web site

11. **Discussion Items Regarding New Lecturer Positions:**
    The Provost would like the Faculty Senate to help develop qualifications and promotion criteria for Lecturer / Senior Lecturer / Master Lecturer positions.
    **Discussion:** Compensation issues for the new lecturer positions vis-à-vis compensation for regular faculty.
    Alfred Lutz asked senators to send him suggestions for deciding compensation and appointment/promotion.
    What is compensation for lecturer position at other schools?

12. **Discussion:** Faculty can deny students permission to record classes. It is not an ADA requirement that classes be recorded.

13. **TBR Sub-Council representative Lutz:** No report. Items of interest can be sent to Senator Lutz.

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