Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Senate
March 10, 2008

Action Items:
New Faculty senate webpages are up and running.

Faculty Senate Pre-meeting information – Joe Bales
- Schedule Bulletin – historical information provided regarding schedule bulletin decisions
  - Factors influencing the decision
    - Everything costs money to an account
    - Maintaining accuracy
    - Speed of information
    - Online was the easiest solution to all three of these issues, as was convenience.
      Inaccuracy was a problem.
  - Tipping factor was the cost.
  - Catalog information –
    - $93,000 to produce (not even cost of mailing) plus additional $25,000 for design. Is this the most productive use of money?
    - Similar comments apply as for the schedule bulletin. We did a hardcopy and online version this year, with the online version under delay. Searchable catalog copy is a complete redesign. Budget will be probably be the deciding factor for a lot of items for the foreseeable future. Leadership in a green environment.
  - What is your comment? Could you advise on the resources that faculty need regularly?

Faculty Senate Meeting:
1) Roll Call
   b) Members Excused – M. Arndt, D. McSwain, A. Miller, K. Nofsinger
   d) Other attendees – Joe Bales
2) Approval of February 2008 Minutes - Approved as presented and posted online
3) Treasurer’s Report
a) Operating Budget: To be provided at later date - $2,878.90
b) Travel: To be provided at later date - $856.00
c) Discretionary Account: $546.72

4) President's report –
   a) New secretory position is established and hiring is on-going. Provost Office is handling reservation of JUB 100 for the present time.
   b) There will probably not be funds to finish market equity this year. He intends to continue to pursue this as soon as the economy improves.

5) Discussion Items
   a) Presentation by Vic Montemayor on the new Student Evaluation of Teaching
      i) The Pedagogy Task Force recommended this new instrument to provide most impact on quality teaching; emphasis is on improvement. Feedback would be online. Access to individual data is to be clearly defined.
      ii) Effectiveness to be implemented in beginning Fall 2008. Last presented to the Senate on February 12, 2007. For more information, see:
          The Pedagogy Task Force,
          http://www.mtsu.edu/~vjm/Teaching/Task_Force/task_force.html
          The Teaching Evaluation Pilot Study.
          http://www.mtsu.edu/~vjm/Teaching/Task_Force/Pilot_Study/pilot_study.html
          Pilot Study Final Report (December 13, 2006 - PDF)
          http://www.mtsu.edu/~vjm/Teaching/Task_Force/Pilot_Study/PilotStudyFinalReport.pdf
      iii) Provost is adamant that this survey will be delivered online evaluation. A committee has been formed to get reasonable return rate. At this time, online rate is around 10 – 15%. Individual student credibility has not been addressed with either online or paper version. Provost plans to benchmark faculty against external universities.
   b) Summer meeting and Faculty Senate retreat -
      i) Tentatively the Summer Meeting is set for July 14, 2008 – 4:30 pm – JUB 100
      ii) Faculty Senate retreat - Wednesday August 20, 2008 - potential topics include: tenure/promotion, workloads, teaching evaluations
   c) Compensation for part-time faculty - - UPDATE –
      i) Data is posted on website. Our maximum is equal to the least that anyone else will pay to adjuncts. We are in no way comparable to the industry standard.
      ii) Impact of any policy cannot be fully predicted due to instability in economy. Right now, $50 per credit hour per faculty would mean $125,000 in total budget impact.

6) New Business
   a) Motion on Faculty Evaluations - Tenure track faculty and faculty requesting consideration for promotion (academic year 2009-2010) should have the option of requesting the use of the old form for the last year of student evaluations prior to their consideration (academic year 2009-2010). The motion passed unanimously.
7) Adjournment