

Steering Committee
09/08/2014

1. Minutes from August Faculty Senate retreat approved.
2. David Urban, dean of the Jennings Jones College of Business will speak at the September Faculty Senate meeting. Other deans will speak at future meetings.
3. Senate President Bill Canak reported on TUFSS meeting in August:
He will post discussions of university management issues and concerns
Other Tennessee schools are facing many of the same issues confronting MTSU: declining enrollment, development of faculty handbooks, faculty codes of ethics and branding campaigns
Need further study on impact of amendments to TCA 49-7-xx regarding employee contact with State legislators.
4. Senate President-Elect Trish Farwell discussed the need for Senate bylaw revision
Who can serve on standing committees? There is a need to clarify University policies regarding the definition of the classification(s) of faculty (rank/tenure/years service/ administrative duties) for standing committees
Does a Faculty Senate representative need to meet with the College of Education to help fill standing committee vacancies?
Bylaws should be reviewed every 3 years. Committee will need to be appointed to study and suggest revisions
5. A Senate ad hoc committee is meeting with the provost to discuss qualifications and compensation for new lecturer positions. The committee is also looking other schools' programs
6. An ad hoc committee (Joey Gray to chair) will work with Andrew Oppmann regarding faculty marketing.
7. At a recent Dean's Council meeting the deans seemed to want the Faculty Senate to take a "leadership role" concerning budget issues, but there appeared to be no consensus on what this role would entail. The deans also seemed to want assurance regarding academic integrity in light of new efforts at student retention and graduation.
8. Fall 2014 enrollment declines (5.4% loss in overall undergrad student enrollment; 9% loss in overall grad student enrollment) are more than anticipated, which may lead to budget cuts in the academic affairs area. The provost is looking at options?
9. Voting proxies are not needed for President's Liaison meetings, since these meetings are for informational purposes only, and do not involve voting.
10. The Steering Committee approved a recommendation from President McPhee that the Fall University faculty Meetings be moved from Friday to Thursday prior to classes starting.
11. Disabled Student Services has said there may be instances where instructors need to record class lectures as an accommodation for some student disabilities. There is, however, a privacy concern (what if a student in the class does not want their class comments recorded). In addition, several senators asked if there were academic freedom issues. Perhaps a meeting with DSS is in order.
12. Dianna Rust will meet with the Senate again in near future to discuss SACS accreditation and the Quality Enhancement Program.
13. Discussion of Faculty Sick Bank.
14. Discussion of the Oak Ridge Associated University and work with Oak Ridge National Laboratory with potential benefit to MTSU
15. Lara Daniels (assistant dean, College of Business), as an administrator, should not serve on standing committee.
16. APSU and TSU are starting to offer 2-year associate degrees. Is this something MTSU should look into
17. TBR Sub-Council Representative Alfred Lutz:
There appears to be some confusion regarding pay raises for adjuncts. TBR has said there will be no pay raises for adjuncts. MTSU officials have said there will be.