

Middle Tennessee State University
Steering Committee, Faculty Senate
March 2, 2009

Action Items:

Minutes

1) Roll Call

- a. Members Present - M. Balachandran, D. Belcher, L. Burris, J. Cain, J. Dowdy, C. Higgins, N. Kelker, A. Lutz, M. Martin, H. Means, K. Rushlow, K. Smith, S. Taylor, L. Warise
- b. Members Excused - B. Haskew
- c. Members Absent -

2) Items Discussed -

- a. Reactions to email documents
 - i. Past issues to be on the schedule-
 - 1. Vic Montemeyer would like to come in the fall to complete discussions with the Faculty Senate
 - 2. Summer School guidelines - on Academic Affairs agenda for discussion with Provost
 - 3. Full-time temp representation in the senate - They do not feel represented in the governance process. On the other hand, we should make an effort to offer them good representation as faculty. How do we want to address these concerns? For now the consensus is that they should take active role with their senators and that they are welcome to the Senate meetings. Likewise senators need to seek input.
 - 4. Clinical positions - guidelines being re-written by Provost and will come back to Faculty Senate
 - 5. Standing committee for veteran's affairs needs to be created; will require an amendment to By-laws. Will put on next faculty senate agenda
 - 6. Regarding the faculty vote to amendment of the by-laws regarding standing committees and steering committee replacement, we will complete the amendment process through email to Gay Johnson.
 - ii. On the 19th, the President will have a press conference regarding his recommendations. Information will be online immediately preceding the press conference.
 - iii. Budget information - The permanent lines that have been coming from state dollars and pay for temps will be eliminated and temps will be funded by tuition increases.
 - iv. Document - do we need to send a document to send the president before the 20th?
Yes
 - 1. Top three are critical - he is overloaded with responses
 - 2. Suggested statements
 - a. Take two years to be deliberative

- b. Are cuts really saving money?
 - c. Top-down data driven with poor data and disenfranchised the faculty at large
3. Agenda–President’s report, presentation of points below, and discussion by senators. In some form or connection the following ideas will be included in the letter that is being written by the Steering Committee

During breathing room –

- o Include \$, personnel and intangible loss to academic mission in any analysis
- o Intense focus on actions for replacement of money through sources of revenue and non-academic cuts
- o This semester should not include cuts in tenure track faculty nor programs for non-curricular reasons
- o Include Comparison to other peer institutions
- o Should only include actions that are substantively beneficial
- o GOES FIRST - In light of the importance of EVERY academic dept to the life of the academy the faculty senate strongly urges that no dept be merged or eliminated until a thorough study of the impact of the intangible values and losses can be made and included in the analysis of the cuts
- o Make key word bolded phrases for “sound bites” and ease of recognition

Final statement –

Use opening statements for the ending portion of the letter.

Offer our best attempts to help with those housekeeping actions and any creativity and hard work as needed

Include 1(second), 2, 5, 7,