

Middle Tennessee State University
Steering Committee, Faculty Senate
September 29, 2008

Action Items:

1. Faculty Handbook - Please review for best practices and for completeness. We also want to look for sufficient protection for new faculty. We have until approximately October 10 to respond to D. Miller.
2. Budget Impact Study - Please review the summary of the material received by A Lutz regarding Budget Impact

Minutes

- 1) Roll Call
 - a. Members Present - M. Balachandran, D. Belcher, J. Cain, J. Dowdy, B. Haskew, C. Higgins, N. Kelker, A. Lutz, M. Martin, K. Rushlow, S. Taylor
 - b. Members Excused - K. Smith,
 - c. Members Absent - L. Burris, H. Means, L Warise
- 2) Items Discussed -
 - a. Clinical/research/teaching positions - to be reviewed by Dean's Council this week. What kind of information do we need to report to Faculty Senate? The understanding of the need for certain departments is clear. What are the protections for faculty tenure and departmental general collegiality and responsibilities?
 - b. Sexual Harassment Policy - We need to redesign our response to the current issues and develop an education policy. We need especially to protect tutors and new faculty, as well as students. We need to emphasize appropriate behavior to students and faculty, male and female alike. We also need to consult campus police.
 - c. Faculty Handbook - Please review for best practices and for completeness. We also want to look for sufficient protection for new faculty. We have two weeks.
 - d. Online mastery tests - the decision on offering these has been passed to the university from TBR; MTSU has discontinued the testing.
 - e. Budget Impact Study - Please review the summary of the material received by A Lutz regarding Budget Impact. What new information can be added regarding new initiatives? This needs to summarize faculty perceptions without being accusatory or aggressive or inflammatory. Can we receive information similarly from athletics? Can we also identify an area of focus for collecting knowledge so that we can have a meaningful discussion?
 - f. Faculty Senate Budget Committee - There has not been a response to looking at the construction and mission of this committee. A Lutz will hunt for more interested parties.
 - g. Constitution of TUFs - page 1 has the critical information. This will forward to the Faculty Senate for review and consideration.
 - h. Administrative positions on standing committees - ex-officio members are "pushing" a particular agenda and have changed the outcome of the meeting. Do we need to address this? This is partially referred to the parliamentarian to research regarding definition of the faculty senate and A. Lutz will look it up in Robert's Rules of Order.

- i. Doctoral programs – what strategies and roles can MTSU faculty senate play in this problem? A. Lutz will meet with K. Gebert tomorrow and report back to us and/or make an appointment with S. McPhee.
- j. Can we ask the SGA president to present an overview of the current MTSU energy policy and current green plan?