

MTSU Faculty Senate Chambers

Members Present – Mark Abolins, Murat Arik, Martha Balachandran, Tom Black, Alan Boehm, Andrew Brower, Larry Burriss, William Canak, Hyrum Carroll, Alphonse Carter, Laura Cochrane, Mamit Deme, John Dougan, Mark Doyle, Tricia Farwell, Michelle Finch, Paul Fischer, Sekou Franklin, Justin Gardner, Joey Gray, Tina Hall, Joshua Harms, Jeannie Harrington, Robert Kalwinsky, Yang Kim, Paul Kline, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Mary Martin, Ann McCullough, Scott McDaniel, Richard Pace, John Pennington, Andrea Phillips (for Jason Reineke), Chris Quarto, Terry Quinn, Deana Raffo, Lauren Rudd, Kristi Shamburger, Barbara Turnage, Martha Weller, Kristen West,

Members Absent – Don Aliquo, Meredith Dye, Michael Principe, Shane Smith, Michelle Stevens,

Members Excused – Buddy Freeman, , Joseph Hawkins, David Otts, Jason Reineke, Zhifu Yang

* Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Tricia Farwell.

Meeting minutes for the October 19, 2015, meeting were approved with no changes.

Budget:

Foundation Account	\$455.16
General Operating:	\$1,254.42
Travel Account:	\$637.25

- * Andrew Brower was welcomed as the new senator from Biology.
- * Motions regarding public access to senior-level academic administrators were tabled pending consideration of the issue by the Tennessee Board of Regents.
- * There are historical records indicating the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) functioned until around the year 2000.

Both the President McPhee and Provost Bartel appear to be favorable to the committee being reconstituted.

A motion to reinstate the Faculty Senate Budget Advisory Committee and have the Committee on Standing Committees review the charge was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

- * Committee on Standing Committees update.

Small colleges are having to staff standing committees as much as large colleges. In order to alleviate these problems it was recommended that colleges be “combined” to form larger cohorts of about 180 faculty members each from which to draw members.

- * Campus police have been notified about two incidents directed toward faculty that have caused concern regarding campus safety and security

Campus police will be offering a video about active shooter safety.

- * Computer refresh project:

Round one (oldest computers first - some are 10 years old)) is being completed at a cost of approximately \$1.3 million

Question: Where will money for a complete “refresh” come from?

- * TBR Institutional Briefings this week.
- * Salary Study Committee will meet Dec. 4 (meeting rescheduled from Nov. 19).

The committee will look at peer institutions and make the following comparisons:

Work-load/salary

Rank/salary

Discipline/salary

- * The Academic Master Plan should be distributed shortly.
- * Deans have been given money to build relationships with community colleges.

TBR Faculty Sub-Council report

- TBR has received \$2,000,000 from the Gates Foundation. Plans are being developed on how to use the money.
- The Bright Space Degree Compass program will be rolled out in 2016. The program is a “layer” on top of the current Degree Works program.
- TBR has created a new academic journal that will highlights TBR campus research, mostly in the area of applied research related to workforce and economic development in Tennessee
- TBR will create a system-wide Institutional Review Board (IRB) program for research involving multiple campuses. This will alleviate the need for researchers to work with each individual campus IRB.

- Governor Haslam has expressed support for merit pay, which could result in the disappearance of but-across the-board pay increases.
- Recent changes in Federal ADA rules means a philosophical change from “reasonable accommodation” to “universal access.”
- Tennessee Promise:
 - There are currently 12,000 students in the program, and 44,000 have applied for next year.
 - 80,000 people in Tennessee are more than half way to associate or full degree, and special out-reach programs should be developed to encourage these students to complete their degree programs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Burriss
2015-2016 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary