
Members Present – S. Boyd, N. Brooks, W. Canak, T. Farwell, J. Gray, M. Knight, A. Lutz, S. Mangrum, A. McCullough, W. Means, D. Patterson, J. Reineke, B. Rushlow, B. Turnage, A. Williams,

Members Excused – C. True

Members Absent – M. Arndt, M. Deme

Discussion Items

1. Prof. Boyd welcomed everyone.
2. A request was made to move the academic affairs meeting to the morning of the 16th. Prof. Boyd said he would follow up with Dr. Bartel.
3. Prof. Boyd shared an article regarding the cuts at the University of Memphis (see attachment).
4. Prof. Boyd updated the committee on the attendance policy discussion as part of MTSU's quest for student success. He said that there was a meeting with several people from Cope, representatives from USA Funds, Jeff Whorley from Resolve, Bill Canak, Scott Boyd, and some additional faculty members to discuss data that related attendance to student success. USA Funds and Resolve are looking to partner with MTSU to track attendance data and student success. A question was asked as to why the outside agencies are here to talk about attendance policies. Are they peddling technology? Prof. Boyd said we do not know yet. They do have their version of a retention dashboard which seems to be more involved than ARGOS. They have data from their studies. Several questions were asked about the impact of the outside organizations' desire to collect data on classroom policies and procedures. It was said that this issue should be brought before the Senate. Prof. Boyd said that President McPhee wanted feedback on attendance. Prof. Boyd said that he shared his that taking attendance at the start and end of the class would negatively impact the amount of time faculty had to present material. A question was asked to see if the Steering Committee could see what the outside organizations were offering. Prof. Boyd said that they were not offering anything at the moment. He said that the meeting was left at the point of setting up a future meeting to continue the discussion. A concern was expressed at the lack of faculty involvement in these discussions. It was said that having a few faculty members present does not count for faculty involvement. Prof. Boyd said that it was his understanding that faculty will have the ability to provide feedback on the

approaches. A question was asked regarding how attendance reporting would impact grades. Prof. Boyd said the outside organizations had data that linked attendance to the ability to repay loans. Dr. Canak said he thought the outside organizations were looking to beta test their model to examine their predictions.

5. In order to gather data on the current attendance requirements in classes, it was said that the Faculty Senate conduct a survey of the faculty. One question that could be asked is "Do you require attendance?"
6. Prof. Boyd said that the University is looking at degree evaluation software to replace our current system. Degree Works by Ellucian is the leader at the moment. Prof. Boyd said that the software allows students to easily see their progress in their current degree, the impact of transferring and the impact of changing their major.
7. Prof. Boyd said that Dr. Canak suggested inviting the Deans to the Senate to comment on their student success plans. It was said that this could begin in the Spring semester.
8. Prof. Boyd asked if anyone had information to report regarding the library questions about monitoring tutoring. It was said that the Dean of the Library may not be the one overseeing the tutoring, so passing along information to her may not be beneficial at this point.
9. Prof. Boyd said the faculty expectations writing group are meeting to get items together to present to the faculty. A question was asked if these expectations would also include what faculty can expect from the University. Prof. Boyd said that the focus of this document was on what the University could expect from the faculty, but that a second document could be developed regarding the faculty expectations of the University.
10. Dr. Canak said that the standing committee evaluation members are still in the process of meeting with administrators. He said he could have a preliminary report ready for the Monday Senate meeting. He said he expects the final report with expectations to be ready early in the Spring semester.
11. Prof. Boyd said that Jeff Hoyt has volunteered to show the Senate a retention dashboard that he is working with. A question was asked regarding who sees ARGOS data and what information actually is available. A faculty member was given a worksheet at a training session that included comments to students with faculty names attached.
12. Dr. Alfred Lutz said that the partner benefits discussion will continue at the next TBR Subcouncil meeting. He said he would like to have a sense of what the faculty feels regarding partner benefits. Prof. Boyd said that if there needed to be a vote, it could be done by secret ballot. A counter was made to make the vote, if it happened, open. It was said that differing opinions could be respected. It was said that our stance on partner benefits could impact recruiting new faculty. It was said that opinions from the entire faculty should be sought. Prof. Boyd said that he did not want a rushed vote on this issue. Dr. Lutz pointed out that we did not need a vote at the next Senate meeting. It was determined to bring the issue before the Faculty Senate for discussion to get a sense of the opinion of the Senate.

Action items:

1. Prof. Boyd to follow up with Dr. Bartel regarding change of time for next academic affairs meeting
2. Prof. Boyd to follow up with Wendi to see if she could administer a survey (such as through Survey Monkey, Qualtrics, or GoogleDrive) regarding attendance in classes
3. Prof. Boyd to write and distribute agenda for Monday's Senate meeting.
4. Dr. Lutz to write up a paragraph regarding what is to be asked during the partner benefits discussion that could be shared with the entire faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia M. Farwell
2013-2014 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Article RE: University of Memphis Budget Cuts

Kimberly Edgar

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 12:15 PM

To: Heidi Zimmerman; Brenda Burkhardt; Diane Snodgrass; Barbara Patton; Richard E. Jackson; Gloria Bonner; JD Hood; Chris Massaro; Diane Turnham; Mark R. Owens; Patrick R. Geho; Scott Boyd; jkl3j@mtmail.mtsu.edu; John Cothorn; Mike Gower; Patti Miller; Ron Malone; David Gray; Kathy Musselman; Buddy Peaster; Joe Bales; Nick Perlick; Andrew Oppmann; Jack Ross; Doug Williams; Bruce Petryshak; Tom Wallace; Barbara Draude; Brian Holley; Robin Jones; Lisa Rogers; Debra Sells; Sarah Sudak; Danny Kelley; Laurie Witherow; Brad Bartel; John Omachonu; Becky Cole; Faye Johnson; Watson Harris; Scott Carnicom; David Schmidt; Jeff E. Hoyt; Bud Fischer; Saeed Foroudastan; Ron Ferrara; Warren Gill; Lynn Boyd; Greg Van Patten; Chrisila Pettey; Heather Brown; Walter Boles; Donald Nelson; Joel M. Miller; Ron Henderson; Harold Whiteside; Lance Selva; Steven Estes; Deborah Belcher; Jenny Sauls; Greg Schmidt; Rebecca Smith; Jim Burton; Smitty Smith; Steve Lewis; Charles Apigian; Charles Baum; Jill Austin; Lana Seivers; Kathleen Burriss; Jim Huffman; Mark Byrnes; Jean Nagy; Tom Strawman; Joan McRae; Warner Cribb; James M. Beeby; Michael Parkinson; Ron Bombardi; Stephen Morris; Jackie Eller; Jeff Gibson; Roy Moore; Billy Pittard; D Brooks; Beverly Keel; Michael Allen; Peter Cunningham; Bonnie J. Allen; Mike Boyle; Marva Lucas; David Gotcher; Vincent Windrow; John Vile

Some University of Memphis cuts revealed by Provost Rudd to faculty Senate

By Marc Perrusquia

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University of Memphis Provost M. David Rudd unveiled plans Friday to consolidate four colleges into two and to relinquish control of a speech therapy clinic as part of an effort to reduce the university's \$20 million budget deficit by about \$7 million.

Rudd's presentation to the faculty Senate laid to rest — for now — a week of worry and rumor over possible faculty layoffs.

However, Rudd's plan, which he characterized as a recommendation for the Senate's review, no doubt will face painful choices as officials look to plug an additional \$13 million hole in the projected \$20 million deficit for the next academic year.

"These are hard decisions," Rudd said during an at-times testy, hour-long presentation to about 30 faculty members. "But we need to be thoughtful about the ones we make."

Rudd has instructed deans to find additional savings in their budgets and he said he was expecting written reports later Friday. Based on those reports, he intends to give his next deficit reduction "update" by Christmas.

He welcomed feedback from Senate members, but said any counterproposals will need to be received and discussed by January in anticipation of the university's budget proposal to the Tennessee Board of Regents by March.

Rudd's proposals were generally well received, yet exchanges between him and faculty at times were intense.

Associate professor of art Cedar Nordbye said he believes the university should wait to make cuts when a fulltime president is picked to replace the recently retired Shirley Raines.

"I disagree with a very fundamental premise: That we can't kick this can down the road," Nordbye said to intense stares and rounds of laughter.

"We don't have the money to kick the can down the road," Rudd replied, explaining that the deficit was triggered by a loss in federal stimulus funds and demands immediate attention.

Key elements of Rudd's plan include:

- Reducing the deficit by \$7 million by tapping \$2.9 million through administrative reductions, \$3.2 million from unexpended tuition reserves and \$1 million in cuts in graduate assistant stipends.
- Collapsing four colleges — the School of Nursing, the School of Public Health, the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences — into two: the College of Education and a new College of Health Sciences.
- Turning over control of the Communication Sciences and Disorders' speech therapy clinic to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Rudd said in an interview he plans to discuss that move next week UTHSC chancellor Dr. Steve J. Schwab. If the clinic is transferred, it could save the university \$1.3 million a year.

A study directed by Rudd ranked the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders as the second-least efficient of more than 40 academic programs in terms of expenses per degree: The university spends \$122,250 for each CSD degree.

That doesn't mean, however, that all departments ranked near the bottom of the efficiency study will be targeted for cuts. Under Rudd's "strategic budget" review, there won't be across-the-board cuts, and key programs such as nursing, engineering and research will be grown, he said.

Rudd corrected one faculty member who said he understands a 15 percent cut is slated for some programs.

"That's not accurate," he said. "There's a lot of misinformation. There's a lot of misunderstanding."

Rudd said he hopes to offset part of the deficit through improved student recruitment and also by working harder to retain students already enrolled.

As many as 25 percent of the university's freshmen leave school before their sophomore year, and another 18 to 20 percent leave after their sophomore years — most because they can't afford it. Another 17 percent of rising seniors also quit, he said.

"The No. 1 problem for us is financial challenges for students," he said.

Rudd said he's working with unnamed private donors to raise scholarship funds for these students. The so-called "Ninety-plus Initiative" reaches out to nearly 2,100 students who've left in the past five years with 90 or more earned credit hours.