

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

Action Items:

Minutes

- 1) Roll Call
 - a. Members Present - M. Balachandran, D. Belcher, L. Burris, J. Cain, J. Dowdy, B. Haskew, C. Higgins, N. Kelker, A. Lutz, M. Martin, H. Means, K. Rushlow, K. Smith, S. Taylor, L. Warise
 - b. Members Excused -
 - c. Members Absent -
- 2) Items Discussed -
 - a. Members of Nominating Committee -
 - i. CBAS - C. Higgins, Education - H. Means, Business - B. Haskew, Liberal Arts - J. Cain, M Comm - TBA
 - b. New Evaluation Instrument
 - i. Presentation by Vic Montemayor at Faculty Senate Meeting
 - ii. Deans can provide category weighting but no one else on a case-by-case basis. Faculty has no ability to input at any level. Dean's weights are set for whole college and can play with weights at individual levels.
 - c. International education exchange committee - becoming a standing committee in the fall.
 - d. Resolution regarding MA stipends - recommending that we postpone this for one meeting due to size of agenda for next meeting
 - e. TBR is conducting a Chancellor search - with the intent to present new person in March. Faculty is not represented on the search committee. Bob Thomas has "explained the process" but had no intent for including the faculty. TBR is in violation of AAUP practices at all levels. TUFS and Tn AAUP will be addressing this. The TBR subcouncil would be the appropriate vehicle for faculty representation. None of the Regents have extensive University experience.
 - f. Budget - Tier I (10%) and Tier II (20%) handouts need to be discussed in the following context. This results in a mistrustful view of recent TBR activities.
 - i. Enrollment increases (up 4%) additional revenue, Stimulus package and
 - ii. They want to make the \$19M cut and then use any additional funds to realign University productivity. Cut will then go towards new PhD and other projects
 - iii. Furloughs - TBR Faculty Subcouncil added some additional requirements regarding info from Faculty. The President's Council added a statement regarding President's right to control their own campuses- which is what passed. In addition, the furlough proposal took off the sunset proposal and instead made it automatically reviewed.

- iv. MTSU is using the budget crisis to further other plans. This needs to be completely explained to faculty and students, especially those who are injured.
- v. Shared governance has evaporated, teaching evaluations are weighted by administrators without consent, furloughs will be used in the first year and will tide you over until you realize savings from cuts in programs in second year.
- vi. Final reports to steering committee on 19th; 25th reports go to McPhee; sent to Chancellor in mid March. So the end of February when faculty can have input. The Academic workgroup is not forwarding the kind of information the administration wants. There are parallel efforts to come up with cuts instead of a joint effort. Note: this is right in the middle of Spring Break.
- vii. The senior administration is going to make the decisions they choose; all we can do is put our ideas in writing and register our dissent.
- viii. We need some statements of principles and core mission. The pain of this crisis is being increased by the use of this crisis to do internal self-absorbed reallocation of funds.
- ix. Edits for the working document
 - 1. Edit the top: The core mission is to provide a high quality education for the students by qualified faculty to benefit the citizens and economy of Tennessee.
 - 2. We must handle faculty concerns within AAUP guidelines and accreditation standards already ...long-standing and universally-accepted principles to govern academia.
 - 3. b, c, and AAUP statements are basic principles.
 - 4. specific initiatives – ten working days to consider, percentage with good faith and transparency, do not release over spring break or right before it.... there must be an open and honest transparency to the process. We also want to have a stake in these and evidence that all decisions are made in good faith.
 - 5. These will be added to the working draft, sent out to Steering for editing, and re-discussed on Thursday.
 - 6. We want Faculty Senate Pres at all meetings where decisions are made.
 - 7. Send to faculty on working committee, TBR, President? Who else?
- x. The President would be willing to appear at the meeting on the 9th. Request that Montemayor to wait until March. Governor will release budget on the 9th.