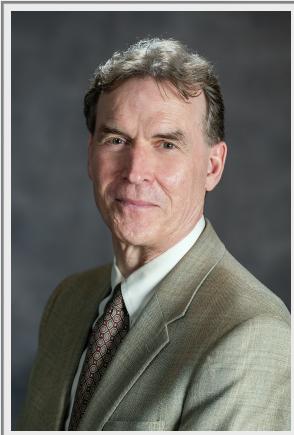




# FACULTY SENATE

## MID-YEAR COMMUNICATION



### A Note from the Faculty Senate President

As we move into the second half of the academic year, the Faculty Senate leadership team is providing an update on the Senate's activities. We are also planning our spring meetings.

Please let us know if you have suggestions for agenda items.

– Michael Federici

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **SUMMER PAY CAP ELIMINATION PROPOSAL**

The Academic Affairs committee drafted and the Senate has approved (42 yea / 0 nay / 1 abstention) a proposal that would revise clause A2 and section B of Policy 221 in order to remove the pay cap on faculty summer salary. The proposal also removes winter term from summer term calculations.

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEPTION**

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Trustee Reception will be held on March 17th. Following the success of last year's event, this year's reception will highlight outstanding projects across a wide range of fields of study, offering our trustees an inspiring look at the innovation, creativity, and academic excellence driving our community forward. Of the 24 nominations, 10 projects highlighting research, career readiness, and community engagement were selected.

#### **NON-INSTRUCTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS (NIA)**

There were 21 applications for the AY 26-27, down from 30 for the AY 25-26. For approved proposals and other information please click [here](#).

#### **CANVAS (LMS) UPDATE**

Please click [here](#) to visit the MTSU Canvas website for information including timeline, training, committee members, and resources. Each college and most departments have faculty who serve as early adopters. They are mentors for faculty who will make the transition to Canvas in the Summer 2026 or Fall 2026 semesters.

#### **PERFORMANCE PAY AWARDS UPDATE**

Department chairs and directors will be receiving training on the process during the AY 25-26. As part of this process, current-year data will be used to create a simulation that helps model potential outcomes and ensure the program is both fair and effective before final implementation.

## What's being discussed in Spring 2026

90-credit hour Credential

Academic Affairs Committee  
P&T Proposal

Academic Reorganization  
Reconsideration

H-1B Visa

NTT Representation

## 2025-26 Senate Officers

*President*  
Michael Federici

*President-Elect*  
Patrick McCarthy

*Past President*  
Suzanne Sutherland

*Parliamentarian*  
Larry Burris

*Recording Secretary*  
Shannon Randolph

*Executive Aide*  
Anjali Sarvaria

For a complete list of 2025-26 MTSU Faculty Senate members please click [here](#).

Please contact your college or department representative for additional information. You may also email [faculty senate@mtsu.edu](mailto:faculty senate@mtsu.edu).

Click [here](#) for a full schedule of Senate meetings.

## 90 CREDIT HOUR CREDENTIAL

The university is assessing the benefits of adopting 90 credit hour credentials for certain academic units. Please contact Faculty Senate Representatives Ron Kates or Keely O'Brien for additional information.

## WORKING PROPOSALS

The Senate is reconsidering an academic reorganization proposal that would help guide faculty through and clarify reorganization processes.

The Academic Affairs committee is working on a proposal to improve dissemination of information related to Promotion and Tenure processes.

## AI POLICIES

Faculty and administrator work groups drafted teaching and research policies on AI use in response to HB 1630. For information on HB 1630, click [here](#).

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2035 IMPLEMENTATION

In Spring 2025, the University Planning Committee, University Provost, and President recommended and received approval of the University's next strategic plan from the MTSU Board of Trustees. Implementation of the new plan began in the fall of 2025. For more information regarding the Strategic Plan please click [here](#).

## NEW FACULTY SENATE-ITD AD HOC COMMITTEE

Sam Zaza and Carter Smith will be serving on a new ad hoc committee that is designed to facilitate communication between faculty and the Information Technology Division (ITD). This committee will be referred to as the Faculty Senate-ITD Committee.

## FACULTY HANDBOOK

Please visit the updated [Faculty Handbook](#). It is being regularly updated and now includes a useful FAQ section.

## MARKET ADJUSTMENT RAISE

The spring 2026 market adjustment raise will begin with January paychecks and use a 2024-2025 market standard. Your adjusted salary can be found under the "job summary" tab in Pipeline.