The Faculty Senate and Shared Governance at MTSU
Universities have three components of governance

• Governing Board/Board of Trustees

• President

• Faculty
The Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate is the agency for faculty participation in the governance of MTSU.

• Representative body of the faculty
• Deliberative assembly
• Promotes policies which set and maintain the efficacy of the academic programs
• Advocates for the faculty and academic policies within the university community at large
MTSU’s Articles of Shared Governance

Collective rights and responsibilities of faculty include:

• Initiate, review, revise, and approve changes to academic programs and curriculum.
• Have a role in making recommendations on the hiring, evaluation, renewal, tenure and promotion of faculty.
• Have a voice in the hiring and evaluation of administrators who can influence academics or faculty welfare, and academic staff.

• Influence institutional priorities.

• Be involved at all stages of the formation, review, revision, and approval of institutional policies and procedures pertaining to academic affairs, student affairs where appropriate, faculty welfare and other areas that impact faculty.
MTSU Policy 201

“Faculty participation in institutional governance, especially participation in shared governance through the MTSU Faculty Senate, is fundamental to the development and maintenance of effective academic policies, national and regional accreditation, and shared responsibility for the delivery of educational programs and services to students.”
Congratulations! You have representation on the Faculty Senate

- Department representative and college representative

- The Faculty Senate provides a forum for the expression of the concerns and issues of ALL FACULTY.

- However, only tenured or tenure-track faculty members can serve on the senate.
Please participate in shared governance

• Be an active participant in department-level decision making.
• Serve on one of 43 university committees if you are tenure-track or tenured.
• Get to know your faculty senator. Serving on the senate.
• Be informed about university policies.
MTSU Policies

University Policies

The following index is provided as an aid to finding the correct policy.

0-99 Governance and Compliance

100-199 General

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## 200-299 Academic Affairs - Institution and Faculty

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You are a member of the “regular, full-time faculty” if...

You are a full-time employee and at least 50% of your workload is teaching, research/scholarship/creative activity, and/or service.

• Tenured/Tenure Track: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor

• Full time: Master Instructor, Senior Instructor, Instructor, or Lecturer
“Academic freedom is essential to fulfill the ultimate objectives of an educational institution – the free search for and exposition of truth – and applies to teaching, research, and faculty participation in institutional governance.”

“Freedom in research is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty member in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning.”
“Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, being careful to avoid the persistent intrusion of matter, controversial or not, that has no bearing on the subject of instruction.”
Faculty are members of a civic community, a learned profession, and an educational institution. When faculty members speak or write as members of a civic community, they are free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. Faculty should remember that the public may judge the profession and the University by their utterances. Hence, they should be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that they do not represent the University when speaking as members of a civic community.”
Working together through shared governance helps us to serve

- Our students
- Our communities
- Our professions
- Our society

A college or university in which all the components are aware of their interdependence, of the usefulness of communication among themselves, and of the force of joint action will enjoy increased capacity to solve educational problems.