

Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2011, 3:00 pm

Faculty Senate Chambers

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Members Present – A. Lutz, J. Brickey, K. Butler, N. Callender, R. Clark, J. Dooley, L. Dubek, P. Fischer, R. Heinrich, Z. Khan, G. Zlotky

Members Absent – K. Nofsinger

Members Excused –

Additional Attendees –

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Action Items

1. TUFS – February 9th appearance before the Senate Education Committee. Suggested bullet points were discussed.
2. February 14th Senate meeting with Dr. McPhee – He will discuss next year’s budget. Warner gave a solicitation for topics for this meeting. Alfred suggested that peer groups for faculty and administrative staffs should be composed of different schools for the two groups.
3. February 26th AAUP Meeting at Jackson State Community College. Rich Rhoda and Jim Williams will lead a discussion of ‘The New Normal’.
4. February 28th – Called Senate Meeting with Chancellor Morgan.
5. March 2nd – Dr. Cribb will meet with Chancellor Morgan. Warner asked for bullet points for this meeting.
6. TIAA-CREF fee Structure – The default setting’s fees are approximately double that compared to choosing your own funds. Warner suggested we contact Rich Rhoda and ask him to contact Human Resources about this issue. Alfred suggested that TIAA-CREF provide a fee structure. Kyle suggested examples as well. Warner will contact Kathy Musselman regarding this.
7. Partnership Promise Privacy Statement – Alfred read a portion of this statement which says that we have seven days to report a problem with the statement otherwise we will be bound by the statement. It was suggested that this be brought up with the President. Warner will contact Kathy Musselman regarding this also.
8. TBR Faculty Sub-council – The change to the Academic Freedom Policy has been approved at this level and will move forward. Alfred will present this information at the next Senate Meeting.
9. MTSU Carnegie Classification – Our classification has been changed to Doctoral Research and a change in the funding formula has been initiated. This has decreased our projected budget shortfall; however, another $1,000,000 may be taken from our budget due to the lobbying from University of Memphis and East Tennessee State University.
10. Smoking Policy – The Senate has already voted on this in the past. Enforcement was questioned. Warner said that Environmental Health and Safety should deal with this.
11. Turnitin.com Software – A request was made to Bruce Petryshak to investigate availability to the entire faculty. Only online instructors currently have access. Warner feels that all faculty will have access.
12. Syllabus Statement – Watson Harris would like certain statements included in all syllabi. The statements were included as a handout. The Steering Committee agreed that these should not be included. Warner will speak with Dr. Bartel and share this opinion. Warner suggested that students must sign something or “click” to indicate acceptance of certain policies (the above mentioned policies may be included). It was also suggested that Warner suggest to Dr. Bartel that syllabi not be used for nonacademic information.
13. Science Building – Key legislators met in December at MTSU. Chancellor Morgan would not be surprised if our Science Building was included in a ‘package’ this or next year.
14. Bill Black – He resigned as the Dean of the Library due to health reasons. Don Craig stepped in to help.
15. Military Duties – The new standing committee voted on last year to deal with veterans affairs will handle the issue of excused absences for military personnel. Interim policy was presented as a handout.
16. Enrollment Management – There is a 4% increase projected for Fall 2011 with no incidental student fee increases. Warner suggested we be careful with this topic if presented to President McPhee.
17. Promotion and Tenure Review – Dr. Bartels does not want lobbying for candidates. Warner stated that he would sit down with Dr. Bartel and ask him for desired changes. Warner will add Promotion and Tenure to the agenda for the next Academic Affairs Liaison Committee Meeting.
18. Unauthorized Course Audits – Dr. Bartels wants to investigate this issue. Warner asked if this happens in the Steering Committee’s courses.
19. Salary Increases – MTSU is thinking of ways to increase salaries if money were available.
20. Faculty Computer Replacement – The University wants to go to a cloud or server based system. Intellectual Property issues were raised. Warner will bring this issue up to the Administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender

2010-2011 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: