

Academic Affairs Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2011, 3:00 pm

Cope Conference Room

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Members Present – M. Arndt, C. Beauchamp, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, L. Burriss, N. Callender, L. Clark, L. Craig-Unkefer, T. Farwell, G. Freeman, Z. Khan, K. Nofsinger

Members Absent –W. Cribb, G. Zlotky

Members Excused – C. Cooper, L. Dubek, A. Lutz, K. Mathis

Additional Attendees – B. Bartel

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Action Items

1. Kim updated Dr. Bartel on the issues discussed during the most recent Faculty Senate meeting.
2. Dr. Bartel apologized for approving the summer schedule without full knowledge that the appropriate faculty consultations had not occurred. Dr. Bartel stated that “bandaid” solutions were being made for the summer of 2012, and consultations would be made for future changes. The quality of coursework in summer school was questioned. Dr. Bartel stated that this and other issues should be discussed for the summer of 2013. He made suggestions for how these issues would be handled. Summer enrollment with the availability of the Hope Scholarship was discussed. The Hope, although limited to an overall number of credit hours, is not limited during the academic year, so students will be able to take summer courses along with full fall and spring course loads.
3. The Loan and Scholarship Appeals Committee issue was discussed. The ability for faculty to meet during the summer was discussed. Faculty on campus in the summer were not contacted regarding the need to meet to hear appeals. The training requirements for faculty on the committee was questioned. The issue of staffing was discussed. Kim shared that financial aid was understaffed. Dr. Bartel shared that the number of recruiting officers was also not sufficient for a university of our size. Dr. Bartel stated that Financial Aid did not want to remove faculty from the decision making process; however, an early proposal was to place faculty in an advisory role only. Kim shared that faculty have a sense of distrust for Student Affairs. Dr. Bartel asked how the Senate would like him to be involved. The possibility of Dr. Bartel attending the next Loan and Scholarship Appeals Committee was proposed.
4. Larry asked how the financial burden of an MTSU education was communicated to students when being recruited. Dr. Bartel stated students were given financial information. Dr. Bartel stated that there is not a good communication between the recruiters and potential students. Dr. Bartel wants faculty to be involved in recruiting. Better students are desired. The desire for more formalized processes for handling students’ letters/phone calls was expressed. Dr. Bartel wants to have a brainstorming session with the Senate to develop the best methods to bring in exceptional students. Dr. Bartel stated that advising methodology was currently being investigated within the colleges. Dr. Bartel stated that mentors would be assigned to each incoming student for the entirety of their time at MTSU.
5. The restriction of FRCAC awards to senior faculty was discussed. Dr. Bartel stated that the change was probably done in response to a reduction in funds. He also stated that faculty notification of the change should have been made. The restriction on receiving this award more than once within a five year period was questioned. The ability of graduate faculty to retain graduate faculty status is an issue when these faculty are being denied grants. Dr. Bartel suggested communication between the Senate and the FRCAC. He also stated that he would have money in the future which may help. Zaf shared that, as the chair of the Faculty Development Committee, he would like more money to distribute. Dr. Bartel asked that this committee submit a proposal for additional funding.
6. The ability to use the last three workload hours for research as opposed to advising and/or university business was discussed. Dr. Bartel stated that the departments must manage what their faculty are doing and how they use release time. Michael asked what would be the harm in reflecting the actual number of hours on the workload form. Dr. Bartel did not think this would be a good idea.
7. Social Media Policy being drafted was questioned. Kim asked Dr. Bartel to speak with Ms. Zimmerman regarding this issue.
8. Dr. Bartel is in discussion regarding purchasing apps for tablets (Android/iPads). IT has a voucher program which can be used to purchase apps.
9. The latest report from the National Student Engagement (NSE) tool shows that MTSU has declined in Junior and Senior engagement.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender

2011-2012 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: