

Academic Affairs Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2011, 3:00 pm

Cope Conference Room

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

Members Absent –

Members Excused –

Additional Attendees – B. Bartel

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Action Items

1. SGA Resolution 5-11-S: The Senate agreed that the Academic Affairs Liaison Committee would discuss this topic prior to the Senate voting on it. Dr. Bartel said that he does not know the history of student evaluations at MTSU. He said that he is open regarding the issue. He does not want to see faculty defamed. The purpose of the evaluations was discussed. Kim stated that he felt that the evaluations were for faculty improvement. Alfred shared that his students did not want the type of information that our evaluation tool includes. Adding additional questions to the instrument was recommended. Some stated that the tool was already lengthy. Warner stated that the length of time it takes to fill out the evaluation was not valued by students. It was mentioned that the information is already available to the students. It was suggested that the Senate recommend that the SGA research what types of information students would like. Warner Cribb and Dr. Bartel will draft a response to the SGA which places the burden of further research in their court.
2. Laura asked about the document which provides rank information. Dr. Bartel stated that graduate students are not professors but graduate teaching assistants. He also stated that full time temporary (FTT) faculty should not have release time. They are contracted to teach five courses. He stated that in the current financial times, departments have been using FTT positions in lieu of tenure track (TT) faculty. Laura asked how FTTs are ranked as Associate or Assistant and how do they advance in rank. Dr. Bartel stated that recommendations come from Chairs after a given period of time to advance an FTT in rank. Dr. Bartel stated that only two departments on campus have policies regarding rank for clinical faculty. He shared that FTTs have been given responsibilities beyond what they should have. The title and pay for FTTs in certain circumstances was questioned. It was suggested that FTTs have different nomenclature such as Instructor or Senior Instructor. Dr. Bartel stated that we will be adding 30 additional FTTs next year which will be closely watched. This will be placed on the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting. Dr. Bartel is in favor of converting FTT to TT positions if money is available.
3. Warner shared the concern that faculty may have regarding the virtualization of faculty computers. Dr. Bartel shared that he had heard of this only recently. He stated that faculty need to know about this soon. Warner described the faculty computer refresh policy. Dr. Bartel stated the Mr. Petryshak said that he would honor requests for specialty equipment, but it was not sure at what level ITD would pay for these requests. Kyle discussed intellectual property rights. Warner suggested putting together a group of people next fall to investigate this issue. It was then suggested that this needs to be added to the fall retreat.
4. Dr. Bartel asked if information was being passed from Dean to Chair to Faculty. It was suggested that Deans cc Dr. Bartel when they send communications to their Chairs. Dr. Bartel recommended that he use the Provost’s website more. It was mentioned that Deans’ evaluations are held in the Faculty Senate office.
5. Evaluations for Deans and Chairs was discussed. The appropriateness of certain types of questions or the aggregation of a faculty’s responses was questioned when the responses may provide indications as to who the faculty member is.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender

2010-2011 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: