

Members Present

A.Lutz, B.Haskew, C. Frost, D. Belcher, H.W. Means, J. Dooley, K. Rushlow, L. Warise, P. Fischer, S. Taylor, W. Cribb

Members Absent

L. Burriss, M. Arndt, R. Heinrich,

Members Excused

S. Seipel, T. Greer

Additional Attendees

None

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Deborah Belcher, 2009-2010 Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Faculty Senate Chambers.

Old Business

Faculty Evaluations: Computer issue with different results in printing for Faculty versus Department Chairs has been shared and is being worked out.

2009 New Faculty Orientation: Deborah Belcher, President, spoke to the new faculty for 30 minutes at their orientation.

2009 Faculty Senate Retreat: The retreat was a success, and an excellent way to start the year.

Fall Faculty Meeting: Amendments to the bylaws were approved by faculty at the Fall Faculty Meeting.

Convocation: Convocation was a success.

New Business:

TUFS Position Paper: The TUFS position paper was submitted to the Steering and Liaison Committee for approval to submit to the full senate. Barbara Haskew made the motion to approve, and Jennifer Dooley seconded the motion. There was discussion as to whether the position paper took a strong enough position. There was also concern that the paper might not be well received since it called for actions that would impact TBR and THEC. After discussion, the motion was approved.

TBR: American History: There was extensive discussion and debate about the July 1, 2009 amendment to the statute that previously required all students at

MTSU to take 6 hours of American history. The history department had expressed concerns over the change in policy and its potential impact on its faculty positions. Three basic perspectives were expressed. First, it was argued that the new policy allows all new and transfer students who took one year of American History in High School to avoid the General Education American/Tennessee History Requirement. This could mean a loss of student credit hours for the History Department. Second, it was argued that the new policy allows new and transfer students who took one year of American History in High School to substitute other History courses for their General Education requirement. Finally, it was argued that students without one year of American History in High School were considered “deficient” in American History, and were required to take 6 hours of American/Tennessee History at MTSU. It is unclear whether there would be a negative impact on the History Department if the final two perspectives are correct. D. Belcher will bring verbal discussion and recommendations to Dr. Miller. Specifically, she will seek clarification of the issue, and request that effected departments be included in the discussions.

Faculty Evaluations – The primary concern is whether faculty evaluations that are currently stored electronically, should also be stored in paper form. There are concerns as to who has read and write privileges with regard to these documents. There is also a question about who has to print the evaluations into hard copies for P&T. It was decided that a recommendation that department chairs print the forms for P&T was to be made to the EVP&P.

Honors Building Parking – Faculty in the College of Mass Communications were concerned with that several rows of faculty parking were taken away near the Honors College.

- After the meeting, D. Belcher discussed this with Ron Malone, Assistant Vice President of Events and Transportation. She reported back to the Steering Committee via email that the lot in question had been changed from a student lot to a faculty lot temporarily due to construction. After construction was completed, the previous white, faculty lot near the Library was reopened and the parking in front of the Honors College was returned to a green, student lot.

Workload Form Part B – There are many concerns over this form.

- The form cannot be saved in an electronic format.
- Faculty cannot list all activities in which they are involved because the fields are too small.
- Faculty generally feel that it is impossible to accurately represent what we do on that form, especially how many hours are involved in committees and public service.
- Many faculty feel the form requires them to commit fraud because there is no way to fill it out honestly.
- The Outline of Faculty Data and Workload B seem duplicative. Is there a solution to that?
- Faculty must fill out the form with 30 hours of “office hours.” In reality, the job of a faculty member rarely places him/her in an office 30 hours a week. Could this be used against someone at some point in the future? Should it be re-titled “work hours?”

D. Belcher will be taking these concerns to the Provost for further discussion.

Defining the University – H.W. Means moved to table this suggestion. W. Cribb seconded the motion. There was discussion that efforts were appreciated, but that it was not this committee's role to advise on the restructuring of the university. The chart should be submitted to the appropriate parties for review. The motion was approved.

Provost Search – There is not public information about the Provost search at this time. Information should be available late September.

Transparency- An extensive discussion was held regarding transparency of spending on campus. The administration tends to talk in generalities about where the money goes, but faculty want to see more than a pie chart explaining spending. There needs to be transparency regarding income generated from increased enrollment and spending on exchange programs. As faculty take on more responsibilities for the same pay, there needs to be transparency or we will have a campus full of distrust.

Adjournment

D. Belcher adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Taylor
2009-2010 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: D. Belcher