

## **Meeting Called to Order at 4:33**

### **Roll Taken**

Senators Burchett, Cain, Hall, Shaw, Beasley, Meadows, Parente, Redmond, Soto, Bleuze, Franklin, Martin, Adams, Benson, Goff, Hawthorne, Webster, Davis, Franseen, Tate, Gray, Williams, Woodland were absent. Senators Fuller and Stovall arrived late.

### **Motion to forego the reading of the minutes**

### **Visitors**

Mrs. Trisha Murphy, works for the office of development and university relations. She discussed the senior gift campaign. Give back night at Blue Coast Burrito tonight November 14.

### **Officer Reports**

**President James Lee** discussed the *Quest for Student Success 2013-2016* to increase retention rates at MTSU. The campaign is centered around three main goals with corresponding programs to enhance student success. Posting mid-term grades, True Blue Tours, and advising are just a few of the integral parts of this initiative.

**Executive Vice President Haley Cobb** informed Senate that a number of our senators are representing us at TSIL. She also announced that she will be ordering graduation stoles and they will cost \$11.00. EVP Cobb updated Senate on senate hours and informed senators of upcoming opportunities for senate hours.

Philanthropic Coordinator Hannah Lee discussed the Senate food drive. Senators can receive up to two senate hours for participation.

Vice President of Marketing Daniel Webb discussed the TRUE BLUE card and ways senators can receive hours.

Vice President of Campus Relations Shavangi Sutaria thanked everyone for their participation in the Heroes and Stars event that took place to honor veterans.

### **New Business**

*Tentative Bill 3-13-F A bill to modify the Senate hour requirements for Graduate Senators of the MTSU Student Government Association.*

Senator Mercer proposed an increase in the number of proposed hours.

EVP Haley Cobb said the hours required in the bill reflect the number of hours required to be full time as a graduate student.

Senator Hardman suggested the Bill be kept as is.

Senator Rivers also spoke in support of the Bill.

Senator Bowling discussed some of the financial burden graduate students face and as a result have to allocate time to acquiring outside funding through employment that is more professional in nature.

Senator Wong commented that the bill is progressive in nature.

*Tentative Bill 4-13-F A bill to require Senate passage of SGA President's memorandum regarding scholarship allocation and scholarship hour requirements.*

Senator Didlake asked for a more detailed explanation of the bill.

EVP Cobb explained that when the SGA budget is proposed, executive officer compensation and required hours would but outlined in more detail in the presentation of the budget.

Senator Hardman asked what would happen if the Senate body failed to approve the proposed budget.

Senator Jones asked for further exploration of the previous comment and what would be the consequences of a failure to pass.

Former President Jeremy Poynter, said that the amount Student Government Association executive officers are compensated was determined by a previous senate. He also suggested that the senate should take into account that funds are a part of a scholarship for executive members and if this scholarship failed to be allocated executive officers may be adversely affected.

Senator Knox made the suggestion that Senate should be made aware of how much money is paid and the number of hours required, but senate should not have the ability to mandate the specific amount paid to SGA executive officers.

*Tentative SGA Resolution 2-13-F A resolution to increase the Student Activity Fee of Middle Tennessee State University*

Senator Didlake asked for a further explanation of the new signature events category and how it was any different from student programming.

EVP Cobb, explained that this would give SGA more autonomy to dictate what events take place on campus, and leads for the potential of having a big-name event on campus.

Senator Rivers asked what part of tuition this increase would affect.

EVP stated that it would affect the Programs and Services portion tuition.

Senator Rivers also asked for clarification on how this would affect other areas of campus like Greek Life.

Senator Hardman explained that student organizations would see a 60% increase in fund allocation that would go to support the aforementioned areas of campus and their requests for student activity fees.

Senator Hopkins proposed making the increase all at once so that current students could reap the benefits of the proposed resolution.

Senator Cox proposed increasing the amount 4x.

Senator Mercer suggested increasing the amount to around \$50-\$55.

Senator Bowling spoke in support of the Bill, she commented that it is modest in nature and also commented that this would be a future investment and current students may not see the benefit immediately.

Senator Didlake agrees with quadrupling the amount.

Senator Hardman reminded senate that one of the things that attracts prospective students to MTSU is the affordability and value of an MTSU degree.

Senator Miller asked how ETSU has the same activity fee, but less students and are better able to attract big names.

Homecoming Director Brandon Loso, addressed the fact that MTSU's student activity fees have to cover a broader range of activities and programs.

Senator Hopkins commented that perhaps one of the goals is to transition from "affordable" to "exciting".

Senator Stovall suggested making a \$10 per semester increase.

Senator Smith agreed with increasing student activity fees.

Senator Johnson also spoke in support of increasing to \$10 per semester.

Senator Walley asked for more specific figures on big name acts.

Homecoming Director, Brandon Loso divulged details from the Homecoming process and Randy Houser would have cost \$22, 000 and the first semester we would garnish \$50,000.

Senator Kennedy spoke in support of the original bill and the numerical breakdown because this has to be marketable to current students because the vote would go to a referendum.

*Tentative SGA Resolution 3-13-F A resolution to create the Raider Rewards Program for students to get involved in university functions.*

Senator Kennedy said he has already spoken to Dr. Debra Sells and she fully supports the idea and Director of Athletics Chris Massaro does as well.

Senator Lewis asked where the funding would come from for the rewards.

Senator Kennedy replied that the University has a current program in place and they utilize donations and student affairs would lead the campaign for donations.

EVP Haley Cobb also said that possible rewards could come from university offices like Phillips Bookstore and giving students a white parking pass.

Senator Hopkins inquired as to what start up costs would be and if there was any evidence of success at university's similar to MTSU.

Senator Kennedy said there would be a low start up cost because of connection point software that we already have and he sighted the success of the Connection Point campaign at MTSU.

### **Announcements**

EVP Haley Cobb also updated Senate on the implementation of previous legislation to recognize students on Dean's List.

Senator Jones announced that "University's Fighting World Hunger" will be hosting a food drive at various locations throughout campus in conjunction with MTSU's student food pantry.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:50**