

Minutes from the October Meeting of the Faculty Senate

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 3:30 pm in the Faculty Senate Chambers (JUB 100).

Present

Sanjay Asthana, Sal Barbosa, Nita Brooks, Trint Callison (sub for Brian Parsons), Nancy Caukin, Chong Chen, Laura Cochrane, Rick Cottle, Trevor de Clercq, Betsy Dalton (sub for Pat Richey), Angela DeBoer, Andrew Dix, Rudy Dunlap, Latoya Eaves, Rebecca Fischer, Stuart Fowler, Justin Gardner, Bob Gordon, Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand, Shannon Harmon, Michael Hein, Christina Hiers, Seth Jones, Rachel Kirk, Paul Kline, Ryan Korstange (sub for Joan Raines), Darren Levin, Melissa Lobegeier, Alfred Lutz, Dan Morrell, John Mullane, Susan-Myers-Shirk, Kari Neely, Ariana Postlethwait, Deana Raffo, Brian Robertson, Salmon Garrett, Stephen Salter, Scott Seipel, Mary Ellen Sloane, Nat Smith, Raj Srivastava, Dennis Walsh, Zhen Wang, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Wyatt

Excused

Larry Burriss, Song Cui, Pippa Holloway, Pamela Morris, Brian Parsons, Joan Raines, Patrick Richey

Absent

Marcus Knight, Preston MacDougall

President Gardner called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. He reminded Senators to sign in and that missing 3 consecutive meetings results in being removed from the Senate.

Approval of September 9, 2019 Minutes

Alfred Lutz moved to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes and Darren Lavine seconded. The motion carried.

Reports from Officers and Committees

Treasury Report

Deana Raffo reported the Senate's budget. As of September 30, 2019 the balances are:
Travel - \$2,900 and Operating - \$3,084.86.

Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Athletics

The committee has not met and had no report. The committee requested last year's committee report to follow-up as needed.

Finance and Personnel

The committee has not met and had no report. The committee requested that last year's report on tenure be emailed to the Senate.

Executive and Governance

The committee has not met and had no report. The committee will examine documents from the Board of Trustee's Executive and Governance subcommittee to gather ideas for their focus.

Audit and Compliance

The committee has not met and had no report.

President's Report

- **Committee Reports for Steering Agenda**

Gardner asked that all committees send a written report to him a week in advance of Senate meetings. The Steering Committee will discuss the reports and identify items for the Senate's agenda.

- **Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)**

Gardner and President-Elect Brooks recently attended TUFS in Martin. TUFS passed a resolution to support polling places on campuses. Their next meeting is in April where the primary topic will be to discuss how shared governance is experienced across Tennessee universities.

- **Diversity on P&T Committees**

Current policy states that the Faculty Senate President is required to review departments' promotion and tenure committees to ensure diversity. There are concerns in small departments/colleges due to lack of diversity at the full professor level.

- **D2L for Senate**

A D2L shell has been established and all Senators are enrolled. This will be a platform to store Senate documents and facilitate continuity from one year to the next. Non-public facing documents will be added soon. Official Senate documents, including minutes and resolutions, will continue to be publicly available on the website.

- **Workload**

There continues to be some confusion in departments about the workload policy. The Senate President recommends that faculty talk with the Provost when a department head does not understand the policy.

- **Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment is a major strategic priority for President McPhee. Gardner has submitted a request to Dean Sluder for data on MTSU's yield from the program.

- **Salary Market Adjustment Phase II**

Phase II of the salary market adjustment will be effective in January 2020. The Steering Committee will follow-up with the administration regarding the Phase III plan and timeline.

- **Accelerated Bachelors to Masters Programs**

SACS is reinterpreting the policies for ABM programs. ABM programs cannot be less than 150 hours total. This will be an issue for some ABM programs.

- **General Education Redesign**

Faculty are encouraged to participate in the Gen Ed Redesign process by attending town halls. The redesign team has been visiting departments and colleges and departments/colleges can request a meeting with the redesign team. Comments are welcome through the Gen Ed website link or by email.

The Gen Ed committee is the body that will vote on final changes (if any). A Senator asked that the proposal can be shared with Faculty Senate prior to the Gen Ed Committee vote. This year's goal is to focus on structural changes (if any) and courses will be discussed next year. The proposed launch date is 2022.

- **Capital Maintenance Projects**

Faculty have expressed concerns about KOM HVAC issues. CO2 levels are remotely monitored and air is recirculated as needed.

- **Committee Participation**

Shared governance at MTSU mostly happens through committees. Senators were urged to encourage colleagues to volunteer to serve and participate on committees. The call for next year's committee assignments will be in the early spring semester. There was discussion about structural and incentive problems where service is not valued.

Discussion also involved a concern for non-tenured faculty in large colleges who do not have the opportunity to serve on university committees. The Senate tried to address this problem a couple of years ago with a cohort structure and may need to continue to look at ways to staff and recruit for committees.

- **Mental Health First Aid Training**

Faculty are encouraged to participate in MTSU's Mental Health First Aid Training. It involves how to recognize problems and available referral resources. A Senator shared that his department has a one-page resource that he will share with the Senate. A syllabus statement regarding student mental health has been crafted to begin in the spring.

- **Disability Presentations**

On November 14, a disability management consultant will deliver 2 presentations on how to work with students who have a disability. The times are 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00 at the LT&ITC in the Library.

- **Board of Trustees**

The September meeting was well attended. On November 12, three of the four subcommittee meetings will meet at 9:00 in the Miller Education Center. Individual subcommittee meeting times are not specified because if a meeting finishes early, the next one begins. The BOT subcommittees are where most of the work occurs. Meetings are streamed online through the link found on the BOT website.

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business at this time.

New Business

MTSU Carbon Footprint

There was discussion about MTSU's current projects and potential new efforts for campus sustainability. Forming an Ad Hoc committee on campus sustainability was unanimously approved and are to report on recent/current projects, the financial impact, what other universities are doing, and obstacles and constraints. Gardner would like to identify an initiative and take action.

The Ad Hoc committee members are: Kari Neely (chair), Christina Hiers, Rick Cottle, Sanjay Asthana, Nat Smith, Melissa Lobegeier, Rebecca Fischer, Andrew Dix, Latoya Eaves, and Trint Callison (not a Senator, substitution for Military Science Senator).

Policy Review Timeline

Senators were emailed a spreadsheet of university policies with review timelines. Gardner asked Senators to review the list and identify high priority policies where Faculty Senate should have a voice.

The meeting was adjourned at 4: 35.

Submitted by Deana Raffo, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary