

Faculty Senate Meeting

November 9, 2020

3:00 pm via Zoom

- I) President Rick Cottle called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.
- A) Present: Jacob Avila, Sanjay Asthana, Sal Barbosa, Vaughn Barry, Larry Burriss, Lando Carter, Rick Cottle, Claire Cook, Douglas Dabbs, Trevor de Clercq, Rudy Dunlap, Kathryn Fenton, Stuart Fowler, Andrienne Friedli, Justin Gardner, Robert Gordon, Michael Hein, Christina Hiers, Seth Jones, Rebekka King, Ryan Korstange, Francis Koti, Darren Levin, Melissa Lobegeier, Alfred Lutz, Suzanne Mangrum, Preston MacDougall, Lei Miao, Dan Morrell, John Mullane, Kari Neely, Lynne Nelson, Todd O'Neill, Sharon Parente, Alicia Pence, Ariana Postlethwait, Joan Raines, Patrick Richey, Brian Robertson, Garrett Salmon, Stephen Salter, Scott Seipel, Nat Smith, Raj Srivastava, Dennis Walsh, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Wyatt
- B) Excused: Song Cui, Rachel Kirk, Zhen Wang
- C) Absent: Brian Parsons
- II) Approval of Minutes

Todd O'Neill moved to approve the minutes for the October 5th, 2020 meeting. Kari Neely seconded the motion. The October 5th, 2020 Faculty Senate Meetings Minutes were approved pending two changes to the November 9th Meeting Minutes.

III) Treasury Report

- A) As of September 30, 2020, the beginning balance of the Faculty Senate was:
- i) Travel - \$1,600
 - ii) Expenses - \$3,942.15
- B) As of October 31, 2020, the ending balance of the Faculty Senate account was:
- i) Travel - \$1,600
 - ii) Operating Expenses - \$3,162.91

IV) Update from Faculty Trustee Mary Martin

- A) MTSU passed its Sunshine audit. Mary Martin will provide the report to President Cottle in late November. Martin explained that the Board of Trustees activities have focused on the impact of COVID-19 on athletic programs, actions taken by MTSU concerning COVID-19, and diversity issues.
- B) Trustee Martin strongly suggested that Faculty Senators stream the November 10th Board of Trustees Meeting Faculty. Trustee Martin suggested that some senators should make sure to watch the academic affairs section. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 to 12:00 noon. In addition, Mary Martin reminded the senate to contact her with questions or needs to ask in the Board of Trustees' meeting.
- C) Special attention will be paid to the finance section of the report. Mary Martin assured the Senate that she would ask many questions about this section.

- D) Trustee Martin explained that the agenda and tabs for relevant documents. The tabs six through nine discuss performance metrics. Martin advised analyzing those metrics.
- E) Trustee Martin spoke about the Board of Trustee's dashboard. The dashboard is at the bottom of the BOT website. Martin also emphasized the importance of monitoring the dashboard.
- F) The governor's meeting with LGI representatives for next year's budget for higher education also occurs on November 10th. The meeting with the Governor and the budget committee focuses on statewide This meeting will be streamed live. Mary Martin will provide the link to the meeting.

V) Board of Trustees Mirror Committees

- A) Rudy Dunlap reminded the Senate that the Board of Trustees meets tomorrow (November 10, 2020). Rudy encouraged Senators to stream the meeting and mentioned that the Board of Trustees pays attention to how many people stream those meetings. In addition, Rudy asked the Faculty Senators to consider serving on the Board of Trustees mirroring committee. The committee would benefit from the diversity of opinions and perspectives.
- B) Finance Committee: Stephen Salter reported that based on the financial data presented to the Board of Trustees, a \$38 million shortfall exists. However, the Senate knows that some of this shortfall will be reallocated (approx. \$7 million) based on the *Cares Act*. Senator Salter hopes to glean more information from the Steering Committees meeting with President McPhee and from Alan Thomas' presentation (November 10, 2020).
- C) The Senate Governance Committee is responsible for looking at policy and bringing it to the steering committee, which in turn brings in it to the Faculty Senate.
- D) Governance Committee: Policy 32 is being unofficially reviewed by Academic Affairs. There is a discussion about changing the Senate by-laws. Would have to be policy changes.

VI) Senate Committees

- A) Governance
 - i) The Governance Committee is currently reviewing the Senate's bylaws. The committee may propose changes to the bylaws this year.
 - ii) Proposed changes to the Faculty Senate bylaws will be voted on by the Senate during the March 15th meeting.
 - iii) The Governance Committee is also working on the upcoming Faculty Trustee election.

VII) Old Business

- A) SACS COC accreditation efforts are beginning. President Cottle reminded the Senate how important it is that the Faculty Senate be represented. Currently the SACS COC team is conducting a five-year review. Senator Richey at has agreed to help with it However, we need a couple of Senators that are interested in the accreditation process and will help Mary Hoffschwelle if she has faculty questions. Interested Senators do not need

expertise in the field of accreditation. The project will not require full time assistance. Contact Pat Richey or President Cottle if interested.

B) TUFs Survey

- i) Senator Michael Hein reminded the Senate about the TUFs survey. TUFs is exploring how much more time faculty spent this summer preparing for remote classes vs. regular classes. The TUFs survey is designed to determine how the change to online courses has affected faculty workload in summer and fall compared to last summer and fall.
- ii) And they also sort of want some data to make the point that faculty work in the summer, whether or not they're getting paid Senator Hein explained that the researchers were trying to keep it as short as possible and get as much useful of information as possible. The students are currently finishing up graduate level survey class and Dr Moffat's on the project with us. This project is a Provo pro bono pod project out of CORE.
- iii) The survey begins on November 19. There will be communication sent to faculty that introduces the survey. An email will be sent to faculty to remind them to fill out the survey. The survey will close in December.

C) Faculty Trustee Election

- i) President Cottle reminded the Senate about the upcoming election for the new Trustee. The timetable can be altered by the Faculty Senate if desired. President Cottle shared the current timetable that provides the important dates.

November 20 th :	Announcement of the Faculty Trustee election emailed to faculty.
January 25 th :	Nominations are due.
February 1 st :	Written statements from nominees the nominees are due.
February 8 th :	Candidates are announced to the Senate.
March 15 th :	Faculty Senate meets with each candidate individually.
April 12 th :	Election takes place.
July 1 st :	Faculty Trustee sworn in.

- ii) President Cottle reminded Senators to seek input and opinions from department colleagues. Senators should represent the interest of their respective departments and/or colleges. Only Faculty Senators vote in the Faculty Trustee election.
- iii) President Cottle reminded the Senate of the criteria for serving as a Faculty Trustee. Criteria are in the bylaws and on the nomination form.
- iv) President Cottle advanced the possibility of making a change to the Senate requirements for signatures on a form based on the current COVID situation. Justin Gardner made a motion to remove the signature requirement from the nomination process and forms. Dennis Walsh seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion about whether the change could be made according to current bylaws. Mary Martin affirmed that changes in procedure were not covered by the bylaws.

VIII) New Business

- A) President Cottle's discussion of the importance of the Faculty Senate participating in the Quest 2025. He reiterated the necessity of staying in communication with administration, anticipating the university administration's actions and proactively creating strategies to protect the faculty and the academic curriculum at MTSU.
- B) Raj Srivastava had been asked to present his views of the near future of higher education.
- i) Higher education's relevance to society
 - ii) Demographic shifts in the college-age student population
 - iii) Changes from traditional teaching models to online teach
 - iv) Students acceptance of online teaching methods
 - v) Lifelong learners who return to universities to re-skill for new careers
 - vi) Forces include:
 - (a) The impact of COVID-19 on both society and higher education
 - (b) Changes in technology
 - (c) Competition from technology companies who are competing with universities in the teaching of marketable skills and have vast amounts of capitals
 - (d) Online curriculums enable students to go to higher quality colleges and universities than they would have been admitted to in the past
 - (e) Artificial intelligence
 - (f) Senator Srivastava's presentation sparked much discussion from Faculty
 - (g) Mary Martin reminded the Senate that MTSU provides access to *the Chronicle of Higher Education's* Premium University Edition.
- C) Related topics were discussed. Here are some key points:
- i) MTSU's students want to stay in middle Tennessee after graduation. (Stephen Salter)
 - ii) MTSU faculty need to focus on the skills we are developing. (Michael Hein)
 - iii) What can academic units do to graduate students who can have five different careers in a lifetime? (Francis Koti)
 - iv) If a graduate has coding skills, they can major in any subject and be hired. (Francis Koti)
 - v) Higher education has a unique advantage because they can confer degrees. (Rick Cottle)
 - vi) Employers value degrees (Kari Neely).
 - vii) What does a core education look like? (Rick Cottle)
 - viii) We're going to have to have some other revenue streams. (Rick Cottle)
 - ix) We're educating the poor. We're educating minorities. We are educating the white working class. We provide a good quality and nurturing education. (Stephen Salter)
 - x) Not all students like online learning. (Mary Martin)

- xi) Producing degrees at the expense of academic quality will not be beneficial to us.
We need to stay centered on learning. (Ryan Korstange)
 - xii) There will be continued discussion on this issue. (Rick Cottle)
 - D) Senator Asthana requested a special report from the *Chronicle of Higher of Education*.
Senator Mangrum will acquire the report, *Chronicle of Higher Education's* Premium University Edition.
 - E) Senator Neely suggested that the Faculty Senate write a statement of support for MTSU's opposition to University of Tennessee's acquisition of Martin Methodist College. The Faculty Senate agreed. It was decided that a few Senators would create the draft document and the Steering committee will vote on the final version.
- IX) President Cottle adjourned the meeting at 4:55.

¹ The first change to the October 5th, 2020 minute is to paragraph III. The 3rd sentence is changed to" Mary Martin will ask the Board for the final version. The second change is the first sentence of paragraph IV. The first sentence is changed to say, "The Faculty Senate agreed to write a memo endorsing the MTSU Council of Chairs Solution for Addressing Student Complaints about Instruction."