

## **Faculty Senate March 13, 2023**

The March 13, 2023, meeting of the MTSU Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 in the Faculty Senate chambers.

Members present: Jeremy Aber, Rafet Al-Tobasei, Jacob Avila, Vaughn Barry, Vishwas Bedekar (via Zoom), Larry Burriss, Lando Carter (via Zoom), Michelle Conceison (via Zoom), Claire Cook (via Zoom), Douglas Dabbs, Elizabeth Dalton (via Zoom), Carmelita Dawson (via Zoom), Laura Dubek (via Zoom), Tricia Farwell (via Zoom), Michael Federici, Andrea Georgiou (via Zoom), Robert Gordon, Lisa Green, Jeannie Harrington, Amy Harris (via Zoom), Samantha Johnson, Renee Jones (via Zoom), Kyle Kennedy, Rachel Kirk (via Zoom), Francis Koti, Preston MacDougall (via Zoom), Patrick McCarthy (via Zoom), Joan McRae, Kay Murphree, Kari Neely, David Nelson, Suman Neupane, Keely O'Brien, Todd O'Neill, John Ouellette, Sharon Parente (via Zoom), Alicia Pence (via Zoom), Michael Principe (via Zoom), Patrick Richey, Jim Rost (via Zoom), Dianna Rust (via Zoom), Stephen Salter, Saleh Sbenaty (via Zoom), Philip Seagraves (via Zoom), Raj Srivastava, Ben Stickle, Suzanne Sutherland, Andrew Wyatt

Members Absent: Leigh Ann Clark, Andrea Dawson, Xiaowei Shi

Minutes from the Feb. 13, 2023, meeting was approved with minor revisions.

Senate President Stephen Salter reviewed minutes from his recent meeting with MTSU President McPhee.

Budget cuts, based on enrollment changes over the last five years, have been sent to the deans. Most cuts will come by not filling unfilled faculty lines.

The College of Media & Entertainment was the only college not to have a budget cut. This was due to increases in CoME enrollments.

Tennessee colleges and universities are working with the State legislature on proposals to fully fund a 5% raise.

MTSU's legislative liaison Bill Ketron is working directly with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the State legislature

President McPhee said he would welcome Faculty Senate comments to the Board of Trustees, particularly about two issues: 1. Impact the faculty has made to a student and 2. Research results.

The comments, perhaps at the June meeting, should deal with particulars, not generalities, and should be 10-15 minutes long.

Salary market adjustments for all Universities: As per the Governor, not this year, but maybe next year. A flat raise this year.

Undergrad admits are up 4.6% from last year, which is well below the rates for 2019/2020.

Graduate student enrollments are up 20% from last year.  
UT-K is scaling back enrollment efforts due to lack of campus space.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Ouellette – Academic affairs. No report

Suzanne Sutherland – Athletics No report

Kari Neely – Committee on committees. Committee structures are under review.

Michael Federici / Jeannie Harington - Finance

The committee met with Becky Cole, Alan Thomas and Kathy Musselman.

There are 4 assistant, 33 associate and 81 full professors who received less than the 2014/2015 market adjustment.

The intent for recent pay raises was to fund only 23% of market.

The athletic department had expenditures of \$33-million, of which \$2.6-million came from the University. This is at the mid-point for Conference USA funding.

We spend approximately \$87,000 per student athlete.

State appropriations are 37% of the University budget and tuition provides another 56%

Pay for promotion may mean less money for across the board raises.

Vice President for Business & Finance Alan Thomas is not encouraged about next year's budget, but the administration seems to be concerned about the same issues addressed by the Faculty Senate.

The College of Education reports sustained recruiting efforts, with multiple committees and groups involved.

The University has numerous "Points of Light," but there seems to be no mechanism for promoting these activities to the general public or high school students.

Joan McRae: What is student/faculty ratio? Is this a consideration in hiring?

President Salter: No. Lines that are unfunded are being permanently removed, not just unfilled.

Sharon Parente: Permanent cuts to library collections totals approximately \$100,000.

Michael Federici: MTSU is already planning for future drops in enrollments (the so-called "2025 demographic cliff"), and concomitant budget cuts.

We're getting better at managing the decline.

Jeremy Aber: A draft proposal for a standing University committee on sustainability was sent to the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee.

Elizabeth Dalton: The GenEd redesign is at implementation phase and should launch in the Fall 2024 semester.

The GenEd Committee is reviewing implementation proposals

Deb Sells and Sara Sudak are retiring and their responsibilities will be reallocated, with some of the duties going to Laurie Witherow.

President Salter: Elections for college representatives for the Faculty Senate are in progress.

Volunteers/nominees are need for all Faculty Senate officers: president elect, parliamentarian, recording secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Larry L. Burriss, Recording Secretary*