

**Minutes from the Aug. 17, 2022
Faculty Senate Retreat**

The annual Faculty Senate Retreat was called together at 9 a.m., Aug. 17, 2022, in the new Academic Classroom Building, Faculty Senate President Stephen Salter presiding.

Attending: Jeremy Aber, Rafet Al-Tobasei, Anne Anderson, Jacob Avila, Vaughn Barry, Vishwas Bedekar, Larry Burriss, Lando Carter, Leigh Anne Clark, Michelle Conceison, Claire Cook, Douglas Dabbs, Elizabeth Dalton, Andrea Dawson, Carmelita Dotson, Laura Dubek, Tricia Farwell, Michael Federici, Andrea Georgiou, Robert Gortdon, Lisa Green, Jeannie Harrington, Amy Harris, Samantha Johnson, Renee Jones, Kyle Kennedy, Rebekka King, Rachel Kirk, Francis Koti, Patrick McCarthy, Joan McRea, Kay Murphree, Kari Neely, David Nelson, , Keely O'Brien, Todd O'Neill, John Ouellette, Sharon Parente, Alicia Pence, Patrick Richey, Stephen Salter, Philip Seagraves, Xiaowei Shi, Raj Srivastava, Ben Stickle, Suzanne Sutherland, Andrew Wyatt

Absent: Preston MacDougall, Suman Neupane, Jim Rost

Guests: Director of General Education Susan Myers-Shirk, University Provost Mark Byrnes, Faculty Trustee Rick Cottle, Deputy Athletic Director Lee de Leon, Vice President for Student Affairs Debra Sells, Vice President for Marketing and Communications Andrew Oppmann.

Session I (9:00-9:55) was devoted in introductory material, senate processes and collegiality.

President Salter welcomed the senators, and expressed his thanks to outgoing President Robert Gordon and outgoing Recording Secretary Suzanne Sutherland for their outstanding service to the Faculty Senate and MTSU.

Parliamentarian Patrick Richey discussed Robert's Rules of Order as they relate to Faculty Senate meetings. He distributed a "cheat sheet" with essential elements of the rules, and urged senators to become familiar with policies and procedures related to efficient conduct of meetings.

Senator Rachel Kirk discussed the importance of civility and courtesy in Faculty Senate activities.

President Salter discussed the Rotary International Four Way test (1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?) and its relation to the Faculty Senate. He urged Senators to read over the test and see how its elements can be easily adopted to almost any aspect of life, business and education.

Session II (10:00-10:55) dealt with +Hot Topics.”

Director of General Education Susan Myers-Shirk discussed the implementation of the new General Education requirement, and noted the need for faculty input at all levels. Details can be found at < <https://mtsu.edu/genedredesign/> >.

Past President Robert Gordon discussed (and presented a handout) related to campus safety, specifically medical emergencies and active shooter situations. He noted Campus Police are available to make training available to departments, colleges and offices in regard to active shooter or other campus emergencies.

Senator Suzanne Sutherland and Deputy Athletic Director Lee de Leon presented information related to new initiatives by the Athletic Department for more faculty engagement with the athletic programs on campus. De Leon presented information regarding new athletic facilities and their impact on both the athletic program and campus life in general.

Session III (11:00-11:55) was devoted to discussions of faculty governance.

Provost Mark Byrnes further elaborated on campus emergency response, particularly mental health issues and the lack of adequate professional staff to deal with these issues. He also discussed the role of the faculty Senate in the development of University plans and policies.

Provost Byrnes discussed the impact of the recently-acquired R2 status for MTSU, but pointed out the achievement of R1 status was essentially orders-of-magnitude more difficult.

The Provost and President Salter talked about the role of the Faculty Senate in regards to individual versus systemic concerns. Individual issues such as promotion and tenure are generally not in the purview of the Senate. However, systemic issues related to, for example, promotion and tenure, are legitimate concerns for the Senate.

Faculty Trustee Rick Cottle again elaborated the role of the Board of Trustees vis-à-vis the MTSU faculty, and reviewed procedures for submitting agenda items to the Board.

Lunch (a delicious make-your-own salad bar) was 12:00-12:30, and was accompanied by much jocularity and persiflage.

After some discussion regarding the limited amount of time left for the retreat, Session IV Financial Security and Session V (Sustainability) were combined into one session.

Senator Kari Neely presented information about the recent across-the-board pay raise and the recently implemented market adjustments.

Senator Jeremy Aber discussed the proposed Office of Sustainability.

Senate members divided into working groups to discuss Financial Security and Sustainability and to present ideas on both topics to the full membership. These ideas are available at < >.

Following a Nutrition Break (assorted fresh fruits and a selection of sweet-and-salty snacks) from 2:25-2:45, the final session of the day, the Year Ahead, began.

Vice President for Student Affairs Debra Sells presented enrollment data for the upcoming Fall 2022 semester, which shows a slight decrease from previous semesters.

Vice President for Marketing and Communications Andrew Oppmann discussed how faculty can assist in enhancing the MTSU “brand,” and thus improve enrollments and the overall financial health of the University.

Senator Anne Anderson discussed potential sources of revenue enhancement. Ideas include more executive education programs, decreasing the number of administrators on campus, bridge and 3-2 programs, and corporate naming opportunities.

Warning areas include the need to “spend money to make money,” questions about the financial viability of on-campus hotels, and making sure corporate partnerships actually benefit MTSU.

The 2022 Faculty Senate retreat adjourned at 4:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Larry L. Burriss, Recording Secretary