

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2021

- I. President Rick Cottle called the May 3rd, 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting to order at 2:51 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Sanjay Asthana, Jacob Avila, Sal Barbosa, Vaughn Barry, Larry Burriss, Lando Carter, Claire Cook, Rick Cottle, Song Cui, Douglas Dabbs, Trevor de Clercq, Andrew Dix, Rudy Dunlap, Kathryn Fenton, Stuart Fowler, Andrienne Friedli, Justin Gardner, Bob Gordon, Michael Hein, Christina Hiers, Seth Jones, Rebekka King, Rachel Kirk, Ryan Korstange, Francis Koti, Darren Levin, Melissa Lobegeier, Alfred Lutz, Preston MacDougall, Suzanne Mangrum, Lei Maio, Dan Morrell, John Mullane, Kari Neely, 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, Suzanne Sutherland, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Wyatt, Dennis Walsh, Zhen Wang and Mary Martin (Faculty Trustee).

- II. Approval of minutes from April 12th, 2021 meeting:

Senator Friedli brought up mistakes she perceived in Section III b., the report from the Senate Finance Committee in the April 12th, 2021 meeting. Senator Salter explained the content of the section and the rationale behind the language used. Dr. Friedli proposed two changes in language in order to clarify the language. The proposed changes were not approved.

Senator Salter proposed an amendment to the last sentence in Section III b. of the April 12th, 2021 meeting minutes. The original statement said, "Nevertheless, MTSU will receive 48-50 million for 2022 or 2023 and seems more financially secure as any other public college or university in Tennessee." The amended statement would say, "Nevertheless, MTSU will receive \$48-50 million for 2022 or 2023." The amendment was approved."

Parliamentarian Patrick Richey reminded the senators to not vote if they had not attended the April 12th meeting.

The minutes were approved as amended.

III. Treasury Report:

Rick Cottle stated that there have been no changes to the Faculty Senate expense accounts.

IV. Old Business:

Board of Trustees Mirror committee Reports

Trustee Martin reminded the Senate that the Board of Trustee's Committee meeting will occur in the third week of May. This meeting will address enrollment, tuition increases, and any progress getting the state budget approved by legislature. Trustee Martin recommended that Senators attend the meeting.

V. New Business:

A. Faculty Senate Officers

i. President Cottle recognized officers who have completed their terms and expressed his appreciation for their hard work. The officers include:

- Justin Gardner: Past President, President, and President-elect.
- Rick Cottle: President.,
- Bob Gordon: President- elect.
- Rachel Kirk: Recording Secretary.

ii. Rick Cottle announced the new officers:

- Robert Gordon, President.
- Rick Cottle, Past President
- Stephen Salter, President-Elect.
- Suzanne Sutherland, Recording Secretary.

B. Faculty Senators

i. Rick Cottle communicated his appreciation to the senators who have fulfilled their terms: Andrew Dix, Kathryn Fenton, Stuart Fowler, Justin Gardner, Darren Levin, Melissa Loebinger, Alfred Lutz, Suzanne Mangrum, Mary Martin (Trustee), John

Mullane, Brian Parsons, Joan Raines, Brian Raler, Dennis Walsh, and Elizabeth Wright.

- ii. President Cottle introduced the incoming Senators: Jeremy Aber (Geosciences), Anne Anderson (Economics and Finance), Andrea Dawson (Music), Betsy Dalton (Communication Studies), Kyle Kennedy (Theatre and Dance), Todd O'Neill (Media Studies), Laura Dubek (English), Lisa Green (Math), David Nelson (Biology), and Ben Stickle (Criminal Justice).

VI. Steering Committee Election

Rick asked the Senators to please consider serving on the steering committee. If you are interested in serving, email Rick. The steering committee will be elected via email. You will send your ballot directly to Avonda. Only current members (2020–2021) can vote.

VII. Proposed resolution regarding faculty salary increases

Stephen Salter proposed the following resolution:

The Senate wishes to indicate its support for the views expressed in the letter of Senate President Rick Cottle to University President Dr. Sydney McPhee on March 02, 2021, on the question of raises. Specifically, the Senate expects that the University will bring to the Board of Trustees on its June 08, 2021 meeting, a resolution that provides the faculty's full raises specified in the Governor's budget. These raises will be across the board and consist of:

- The salary of each faculty member will increase by two percent effective January 1, 2021.
- A one-time payment will be made in the June 30 salary check to cover the unpaid portion of salary retroactive to January 1, 2021.
- The salary of each faculty member will increase by a further two percent effective July 1, 2021.
- At that point, the salary of each faculty member will be 104.04 percent of their salary on January 1, 2022.
- The following does not affect raises for promotion and tenure, which supplemental to these amounts.

The Senate discussed sending a resolution about faculty and staff raises but decided instead to send a letter to President McPhee about the expected salary increase.

Michael Hein motioned that the Faculty Senate authorize President Cottle to draft a letter to Dr. McPhee on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

Discussion occurred as Ryan Korstange voiced concerns about including specific dates in the letter. Dr. Korstange stated that he thought including the dates sounded like demands.

Rick Cottle and Rudy Dunlop explained the necessity of including exact dates in the letter. Senator Sanjay Asthana explained the importance of being specific and using the language used by the state. It is the language of administrators and they will respond best to it.

After the discussion, Darren Levin seconded the motion to authorize Rick to write the letter. The motion was approved by a majority of Faculty Senators

Rick stated that he will send the letter out to all current faculty senators and encourages everyone to respond to him with comments.

VIII. Discussion of the April 30, 2021 message from President McPhee re: Faculty and Staff returning to their offices no later than June 1, 2021.

Senator Sharon Parente voiced her concern about President McPhee's announcement. The announcement provides links to an alternate work arrangement agreement, but that the agreement excludes faculty.

Mary Martin responded that the policies regarding faculty need to be updated from the prior TBR editions.

Sharon will write to the Provost with her question.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.