

2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

October 5, 2020

3:00 pm via Zoom

- I. President Rick Cottle called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Present

Sanjay Asthana, Sal Barbosa, Vaughn Barry, Larry Burriss, Lando Carter, Claire Cook, Rick Cottle, Douglass 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, Preston MacDougall, Dan Morrell, John Mullane, Kari Neely, Lynn Nelson, Todd O'Neill, Sharon Parente, Alicia Pence, Ariana Postlethwait, Pat Richey, Brian Robertson, Garrett Salmon, Stephen Salter, Scott Seipel, Nat Smith, Raj Srivastava, Dennis Walsh, Zhen Wang, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Wyatt

Excused

Song Cui, Suzanne Mangrum, Joan Raines

Absent

Jacob Avila, Alfred Lutz, Lei Miao, Brian Parsons

- II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the September 14, 2020 meeting were approved pending changes.

- III. Treasury Report

A. As of August 31, 2020, the beginning balance of the Faculty Senate account was:

- i. Travel - \$1600
- ii. Expenses - \$4,380 with a credit from last year of 34.99 = \$4,414.99 total.

B. As of September 30, 2020

- i. Travel - \$1,600
- ii. Operating Expenses - \$3,932.15

- IV. Update from Board of Trustees' Faculty Representative, Mary Martin

Mary Martin informed us that the student enrollment increased since the original report for Fall 2020. Mary will ask the board the final version. The university is adequately addressing Covid19 issues regarding students and employees. Mary Martin also explained that MTSU has fared the Covid19 crisis better than Tennessee Technological

University or University of Tennessee-Memphis. These universities were not able to use funds from the Cares Act to invest in technology as we have. MTSU also used Care Act funds to mitigate the reduced occupancy of out dormitories. Professor Martin suggested that the Faculty Senate think about how they would like to see the next stimulus spent.

Stephen Salter asked Mary Martin if she thought the Board of Trustees would take issue with the Faculty Senate inviting Alan Thomas to present the university's financial activities. Trustee Martin did not think that the Board of Trustees would mind, but she suggested that we ask Alan to comment on the specific notes and ask for context.

V. The Faculty Senate agreed to write a memo endorsing the MTSU Council of Chairs Solution for Addressing Student Complaints about Instruction. The Student Government has also endorsed the letter. Michael Hein supported the motion, Darren Levin seconded the motion, and the senate unanimously agreed to the memo that stated an endorsement of the Council of Chairs Solution for Addressing Complaints about Instruction.

VI. There was another discussion of the survey sent to students. Kari Neely stated that we want a statement from the Provost that the survey won't be part of any personnel file or used in for tenure, continued appointment, or annual evaluations. In addition, there will be no public disclosure of results except in aggregated form. Mary Martin stated that only 20% of students respond. As a result of the low participation rate, any statistics are not valid. Using surveys with such low participation rates is not a best practice. President Cottle will bring this request to the Provost

VII. Facebook Page: Kari Neely asked why a moderator doesn't review the comments before posting. Rick Cottle will ask administration about moderator. The Faculty Senate voiced unanimous agreement in support of Rick Cottle

VIII. SACS COC accreditation efforts are beginning. Rick invited interested Senators to participate in the effort and represent the Faculty Senate. Let Rick know if you are interested.

IX. Senate Committees

A. The new Senate Governance Committee will be led by Bob Gordon. Bob Gordon will also work on the bylaws this year. Volunteer for this committee if interested.

B. The Finance Committee will be led by Stephen Salter. This committee monitors communication from the V.P of Finance and asks questions so that Faculty

Senators understand what is meant by the information.

- C. The University Policy Committee will constantly monitor MTSU policy and bring issues to the attention of the Faculty Senate. Let Rick know if you are interested.

- D. The Strategy Committee looks at the future and prepares the Faculty Senate for contingencies. Ryan Korstange, Francis Koti, Claire Cook, Sanjay Asthana, Seth Jones, and Raj Srivastava have been asked to consider joining this committee. Raj Srivastava will share a five-minute presentation at the beginning of the next meeting.

- X. TUFTS, the Tennessee University Faculty Senates organization, will happen soon. Michael Hein has identified two student volunteers. This year, TUFTS is exploring how much more time faculty spent this summer preparing for remote classes vs. regular classes.

- XI. Faculty Senate D2L Shell: Rachel Kirk brought up the idea of creating a D2L Shell where committees can share working documents and draft minutes can be posted more quickly. The Faculty Senate agreed to move forward on this project.

- XII. New Business
 - A. Kari Neely has heard that Remote Instruction is being transitioned in to Hybrid classes. Kari Neely expressed that she was concerned that there would no longer be synchronous course. Andrew Dix agreed with Kari Neely about the loss synchronous instruction. President Cottle stated that he does not think that synchronous surveys are going away.

 - B. President McPhee and Provost Byrnes will be meeting with everyone in each individual college in town hall style Zoom meetings. Tell faculty that this is meant to be constructive. President McPhee wants to hear our concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Kirk, Recording Secretary
October 9, 2020