

**Faculty Senate**  
**12/05/2022**

The MTSU Faculty Senate met in regular session, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, at 3:30 p.m., Senate President Stephen Salter presiding.

Members present: Jeremy Aber, Rafet Al-Tobasei, Vaughn Barry, Vishwas Bedekar, Larry Burriss, Lando Carter (via Zoom), Leigh Anne Clark, Michelle Conceison, Claire Cook (via Zoom), Douglas Dabbs (via Zoom), Andrea Dawson, Laura Dubek, Tricia Farwell (via Zoom), Michael Federici, Andrea Georgiou (via Zoom), Robert Gordon (via Zoom), Lisa Green (via Zoom), Jeannie Harrington, Amy Harris (via Zoom), Samantha Johnson, Kyle Kennedy (via Zoom), Rachel Kirk (via Zoom), Francis Koti, Preston MacDougall (via Zoom), Patrick McCarthy (Via Zoom), Joan McRae, Kay Murphree, Kari Neely (via Zoom), David Nelson (via Zoom), 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, Dianna Rust, Stephen Salter, Philip Seagraves, Xiaowei Shi (via Zoom), Raj Srivastava, Ben Stickle, Suzanne Sutherland, Andrew Wyatt

Members Absent: Anne Anderson, Jacob Avila, Carmelita Dotson, Renee Jones

Members Excused: Elizabeth Dalton, Saleh Sbenaty

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November Faculty Senate meeting. Approved.

Dean Beverly Keel (College of Media and Entertainment) spoke to the Senate about initiatives being developed in the college.

\* The college is taking the lead in the development and launch of an e-sports program, which will be housed in the College, but involve several other departments as well. E-sports is currently a recognized University club that hopes, in the near future, to go "varsity." There are several such clubs throughout the state, but this will be the first with a full program and scholarships in Tennessee. There are more than 250 such programs worldwide. The club currently has space in the Miller Building, but Dean Keel estimated it will take \$400-thousand to renovate the facilities.

A major fundraising achievement will be announced next year, to include naming rights for the college. Preparation for the announcement will include a major renovation of the Bragg Building.

\* The college has the nation's only stand-alone songwriting center.

\* Dean Keel noted there has been some criticism of self-promotion of college activities, but said publicity often leads to sponsorship and funding. She said every department and college has a plethora of projects, and almost all of them are amenable to publicity and promotion. "If you don't tell your own story, who will?"

## **Committee Reports**

Senator John Ouellette (Academic Affairs): The committee is looking into apparent confusion with the intersection of unclear sick leave policies and authority to change teaching modalities.

Senator Susanne Sutherland (Athletics): The Senate has been given several tickets to upcoming basketball games, which will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Feb. 8, 2023 basketball game will highlight faculty achievements, specifically in the College of education. Free tickets and vouchers for concession stands will be available.

Senator Michael Federici (Finance): There are continuing rumors of significant enrollment declines, based on data suggesting the 2025 high school class will be potentially much smaller than usual, thus limiting the number of college applicants nationwide.

There are (unsubstantiated) reports enrollment could drop to as low as 13-thousand.

In a related matter, Senate President Salter recently met with MTSU President McPhee and several legislative representatives. President McPhee told the delegates MTSU needs approximately \$8-million to fully fund market equity. President Salter noted several legislators seemed surprised by this “small” number.

Senator Jeremy Aber (Sustainability): The committee continues to discuss potential campus sustainability initiatives. The committee would like to see a fully-staffed office of sustainability, but for the moment there is a current need is for a University standing committee on sustainability.

President Salter recently met with Provost Mark Byrnes about the need for a better phased retirement plan. Provost Byrnes said he will form a committee to look at staffing and financial implications of such changes.

There are several proposals for increasing “pay on promotion,” but President McPhee seems hesitant to change the existing pay-raise scales.

In a discussion of workloads Provost Byrnes acknowledged the workload should be 3-3 for faculty engaged in significant research, creative activities or service, but approving 3-3 is at discretion of deans and chairs.

Senator Kari Neely: Is there more the University can do to improve “yield” (applications leading to enrollments). There appear to be numerous ideas circulating but these ideas and materials need better coordination with central administration

The December 1 scholarship deadline is too early and leads to too many applicants enrolling in schools with later deadlines.

There has been discussion of how students describe MTSU. President Salter asked senators for how, in one or two words, they would describe the University MTSU.

Accessible  
Global  
Connecting  
Collaborative  
Scholarship  
Practitioner  
Affordable  
Open  
Knowledge  
Engaging  
United  
Student-centered  
Southern  
Community  
Educators  
Nashville  
Scholarship  
Family  
Nearby  
Caring

Approachable  
Affordable  
Locally-cosmopolitan  
Good value  
Generational  
Friendly  
Caring  
Supportive  
Affordable  
Home town  
International  
Welcoming  
Affordable  
Friendly  
Difference-makers  
Hands-on  
Community  
Career-focused  
Life-long-learning

Comments from the Floor:

Legislators seemed outcome-oriented (what is the University actually doing).

Many people are thinking about one-day-a-week classes, but there appears to be push-back from the administration.

We need to have an enrollment strategy.

Do we need different enrollment campaigns for parents and students? Yes

Do we need different enrollment campaigns for different kinds of students (commuters, adults, etc.)? Yes.

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

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