

## **February 24 – Chairs Council - Faculty Senate Chambers (3:00-4:30 PM)**

**President McPhee**

**University Standing Committees**

Wendi Watts

### **REPORTS**

Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2014

Update from Chairs Exec with Provost and Dean's Cabinet meetings (see below)

Reminder – Tinto Meeting with Deans and Chairs – 2/28 from 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM, HONR 202

Next Chairs Council meeting – **March 24 at 3:00 – University Writing Center, Walker Library 362**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Print Solutions Follow-up discussion

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#### **2/17/2014 – Chairs Exec with Provost**

1. Dr. Bartel noted a recent TBR policy change which eliminates the use of classifying students as “undeclared.” Instead, all institutions will classify students in one of 7 “metamajors” until they have declared an official major.
2. Dr. Bartel discussed a plan to hire 55 new professional advisors at MTSU. These new advisors, combined with existing ones, will handle all academic advising of students and they will be placed within colleges. The goal is to create a 275:1 student to advisor ratio. In addition, a new software system would be purchased and implemented to support advising. Faculty would serve in a mentoring and career counseling role for students. The proposal is being submitted for approval by the Chancellor and, if approved, would be implemented by fall 2014.
3. Dr. Bartel reminds chairs that outside employment of faculty must be approved in advance.
4. Regarding P&T, President McPhee is reviewing materials for final decisions and these should be forthcoming soon. Dr. Bartel noted he and Faculty Senate are reviewing final changes to P&T policies; these are primarily “housekeeping” changes for improved clarity.

#### **2/19/2014 – Deans and Directors Meeting**

1. Chris Brewer (IEPR) demonstrated the new Academic Success Dashboard available in the IEPR site. There are multiple reports in this dashboard, including those related to grade distribution, enrollment data, and academic standing of various groups of students. Chairs are encouraged to be aware of this information.
2. Vincent Windrow and Mike Boyle provided an update on Student Success initiatives. Among items discussed was the expansion of the Scholars Academy from 34 to 200 in the coming summer. It was noted that tutoring reports should be submitted by departments each Thursday (indicating productivity of tutoring services provided). In addition, the design for tutoring space on the first floor of Walker Library is forthcoming; a committee of those involved in tutoring services will review and inform the design process once an initial draft is available. Dean Boyle hopes to be able to provide a demonstration of the new EAB software (advising software) to chairs soon. Dr. Bartel asked that chairs receive some indication about expectations of how to handle information received from upcoming mid-term grade reports.
3. Peter Cunningham discussed new programs in the pipeline at MTSU. He also discussed the “soft moratorium” expected from TBR for those proposals not approved by July 1.
4. Scott Boyd, Faculty Senate President, indicated volunteer letters for standing committee are forthcoming as is the draft version of the Faculty Expectations document a subcommittee has been working on.