## MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate April 5, 2011

Present: Senators Bartnik, Begley, Binfield, Blaylock, Bloomdahl, Bodevin, Busija, Coffelt, Goggins, Guyer, Herr, Hoover, Jung, Kleinhans, Koren, Locke, McCreary, Norris, Ortega, Ortmann, Pittman-Munke, Porter, Rogers, Schell, Swisher, Washington, S. White, A. White, and Regent Rose. Dr. Floyd Carpenter was proxy for Senator Stambaugh, accounting. Absent: Senators Byers, Farrell, Fawzy, Papajeski, Robertson, Lt. Col. Simon, Smith, and Yarali.

Guests: Provost Higginson and Dr. Jay Morgan, Office of the Provost. The minutes of March 1, 2011, were approved.

## REPORTS

**Insurance and Benefits**—Senator Washington presented a detailed report from the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee. The committee met and took action on several proposals at its March 11 meeting (*minutes attached*). The recommendations along with the administration's response are attached as part of these minutes. The committee will meet on April 18.

Academic Policies—No report.

**Finance**—Chair Blaylock reported that replication of the salary equity study is an agenda item for the committee; nothing further to report.

Governmental Affairs—Chair Guyer noted SB130 signed into law during the legislative short session. This stipulates that there should be no more than three comprehensive advanced practice degrees offered at any institution applicable to the recently approved Doctor of Nursing Practice and to include applied research doctorates, such as in education.

**COSFL**—President Pittman-Munke reported that COSFL will meet with CPE staff on April 11. The impact of state strategic planning on higher education faculty and staff and definition of general education transfer courses through HB 160 will be shared.

**Handbook and Personnel**—Chair White presented revisions to Chapter Two that include the process of graduate faculty appointments and definitions of terminal degree categories. The Graduate Studies Committee of the University Academic Council asked for the changes to graduate faculty appointments, and updates to the terminal degree categories are made to comply with SACS guidelines. Both revisions are supported by the Office of the Provost/VPAA.

University Tenure Committee—Senator Binfield, chair of the University Tenure Committee, presented a report to the senate. It is the obligation of the committee to monitor the tenure process and to report any recurring problems. Departmental committee reports should include all signatures and at least three should be involved in the recommendation. The submissions of

teaching evaluations vary within departments. Chairs and deans should write adequate letters of support. The recommendation from the provost should be made more clear by not only addressing the general needs of the university but the need of each position and the need for that particular applicant for the position.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws—Vice President Koren announced this year's recipients of the Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Awards that will be presented at the Faculty Recognition Banquet. He reported a twenty-four percent (24%) response to the reconstituted administrative performance assessment conducted by the Faculty Senate. Deans and chairs will be included in next year's assessment. Results have been forwarded to the provost and president as an indicator of faculty opinion. Senator Porter encouraged an option for open response and more questions in order to give affective feedback. He recommended that the chairs, deans, provost, and president be given the opportunity to address what kinds of questions would be helpful to them. President Pittman-Munke suggested that the assessment questions follow the job description for each administrator. Nominations for governance elections were listed. Dr. Koren reminded departments to elect senators by May 1.

**Executive**—President Pittman-Munke shared results of the senate's survey of lecturers with a fifty percent (50%) response rate. Overwhelmingly, faculty indicated that having the right to vote for faculty regent was important to them and were open to a change in title in order to vote. Dr. Pittman-Munke asked the Handbook and Personnel Committee to collaborate with the Provost's Office to accommodate this need by the next regent election.

The president explained OEO's function within the grievance process to senate leadership and would entertain a change to policy to bring process in line with the *Faculty Handbook*. However, to comply with statutory regulations OEO has the authority to act as a separate body that takes it out of normal processes within the civil rights act.

The president was commended for being very open and responsive to the needs of faculty.

**Board of Regents**—Regent Rose reiterated appreciation to the president on projected raises and the sick leave buy back proposal. He also thanked President Pittman-Munke for being willing to take faculty needs directly to the president. Dr. Rose reported that the Board will meet in special session on April 15 to consider a University Code of Ethics. Such a code was recommended last year by independent auditors and was shared by the president through the Faculty and Staff Leadership Council.

Academic Council—No report.

Residential Colleges—No report.

IIS Advisory Committee—No report.

## **New Business**

The nominating committee for next year's senate officers was appointed. Senators Herr and McCreary asked that anyone interested in serving contact them.

The senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.