MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
February 2, 2010

Present: Senators Bartnik, Begley, Binfield, Blaylock, Bloomdahl, Bodevin, Busija, Farrell, Goggins, Guyer, Herr, Jung, Kleinhans, Koren, Landini, LaValle, Locke, Miller, Norris, Ortmann, Papajeski, Peake, Pittman-Munke, Porter, Rogers, Rose, Smith, Washington, White, Yarali, and Regent Morgan. Dr. Tina Coffelt was proxy for Senator Gesler, Department of Organizational Communication, Dr. Wafaa Fawzy for Senator McCreary, Department of Chemistry, and Lt. Col. Simons for Cpt. Ballard, Military Science.

Absent: Senators Awori, Revell, Robertson, and Swisher. Guests: Tom Hoffacker, Director of Human Resources, and Josh Jacobs, President's Office. News Media: None.

The minutes of December1 were corrected and approved.

REPORTS

Board of Regents--Regent Morgan reported that he has emailed faculty with information in preparation of the next board meeting on February 19. He distributed a summary of the Governor's 2010-2012 Budget Proposal.

KTRS—Regent Morgan, also a KTRS Board Member, presented information on proposed legislation that would adequately fund medical insurance for retirees. The contributory percentage will be phased in to an increase from .75 percent to 3.75 in 2015-2016. The senate passed a resolution unanimously supporting the plan.

Executive—President White welcomed Dr. Coffelt, representing organizational communication, and Lt. Col. Johnny Simons, representing military science. A resolution responding to HB160 – a bill currently being discussed in the state legislature that leads to mandates of common course requirements and outcomes for general education at Kentucky universities – was passed and will be forwarded to our legislative representatives. The resolution strongly opposes any mandate of standardization in degree requirements, curricula, and course outcomes. The senate also opposes any legislative action that would waive program-specific course prerequisites or mandate automatic admissions to related upper division courses or degree programs.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws-Vice President Pittman-Munke introduced Casey Workman, an information systems programmer, who answered questions regarding the capabilities of Votenet (www.votenet.com), a company the university has contracted with to facilitate student and faculty elections. Members of the executive committee have examined the services and found them to be compliant with security concerns, etc. IS will work with SGA and the senate on test phases. Faculty Senate spring elections will be ran through Votenet. The possibility to use for the senate's administrative performance assessment will also be explored. Faculty are encouraged to vote in this spring's elections. A call for nominations will be distributed shortly and nominations will be accepted from March 1 to April 6. The BOR Teaching Award guidelines have been distributed.

Academic Policies- No report.

Finance- No report.

Governmental Affairs-Vice President Pittman-Munke reported that COSFL is also monitoring HB160 on transferability coming out of CPE. The other institutions are also responding to it as are the chief academic officers and university presidents. Diversity is also being discussed at the state level.

Handbook and Personnel-Chair Porter presented a recommendation from the committee that would allow the University Tenure Committee to make tenure recommendations on each individual packet. President White noted that the committee now oversees the tenure process and checks that procedures have been followed but does not make individual tenure decisions. Senators voiced both support and disagreement with the proposed revision to Section 1.5.3.2, the University Tenure Committee, and repercussions to the tenure policy. Possible implications to the appeal process were part of the discussion. The recommendation failed 8 to 22. Revision to Section 2.7.5.1, Tenure Consideration Procedures, was withdrawn.

Academic Council

Undergraduate Studies-Vice President Pittman-Munke reported that several courses have been passed by the Academic Council but very few by the committee. No items will be accepted after March 1.

Graduate Studies-Dr. Gannon, chair, reported that five new history courses, 2 psychology courses, and one occupational safety & health course were subsequently approved by Academic Council. The largest order of business consisted of a widespread revision of counseling (education) courses and programs.

Library and Academic Support-No report.

Residential Colleges-No report.

Insurance and Benefits- Senator Porter, committee member, encouraged faculty and staff to participate in the Healthy Life program and to use health services for routine office visits. There is no copay and nurse practitioners can write prescriptions. An employee health fair is scheduled for March 10, 8 a.m. -12:30 p.m., offering many free screenings.

President White noted the reminder emails for reporting of leaves. A faculty member from MTSU has shared that their chairs are still responsible for submitting the reports, even with Banner, and that it is not placed on the individual faculty members. A uniform time for submission was highly suggested in helping with this new process for faculty. Faculty were encouraged to review their cumulative reports to make sure leave is being calculated correctly. Faculty questioned the motives of this reporting requirement in the light of possible fines to departments. It was noted that any reduction of leave for non-compliance would be unlawful. Faculty noted continuing problems in deposits to ORP accounts. Senator Porter explained that the university's one-time deposit to the newly offered health savings accounts would occur in March.

Senator Farrell noted bill SP137 that will allow the regional universities to offer doctoral programs in nursing. This is supported by both UK and UofL as they recognize the need and the compliance with increased accrediting requirements.

Regent Morgan is pursuing free access to the Student Wellness and Recreation Center for all faculty and staff.

New business-Concerns were shared over the search for provost; 1) the short term notice to faculty of the search firm visit immediately after the holiday break, before the beginning of classes; and 2) the lack of experience of administrative searches at the university level. The lack of faculty consultation in development of the process was also noted. President White attended one of the open sessions January 5-6 in which members of the firm solicited qualities in a desired profile of a new provost. He noted the one day notice and the lateness of the day as influencing the low attendance. The search committee will be able to review all applicant files and will determine the finalists. The search firm does the initial screening of candidates. Each finalist will visit campus and meet with constituencies. According to faculty representatives on the search committee, the firm was chosen before the committee was convened. There was no action by the board. According to Mr. Jacobs, procurement accepted RFPs from any interested parties. Proposals were accepted, reviewed, scored, and the contract awarded. President White was asked to request a list of bids from procurement.

'The senate adjourned at 5:15 p.m.