

**2015-2016 Morehead State University Faculty Senate
Minutes – February 25, 2016
Riggle Room**

Call to Order: 3:49 p.m.

Senators: Annie Adams (Chair), Sanjeev Adhikari, Aly, Ashraf, Royal Berglee (Regent, ex officio), Katy Carlson, Hans Chapman, Ophelia Chapman, Tim Conner, Chris Cottingham, Jennifer Dearden, Nathan Dishman, Mike Dobranski, Anthony Dotson, Lynn Geurin, Cyndi Gibbs, Gina Gonzalez, Janell Hare, Timothy Hare, John Hennen, Eric Jerde, Thomas Kiffmeyer, Gary LaFleur, Jennifer Little, Rus May, Gregory McBrayer, Beverly McCormick, Elizabeth McLaren, Ron Morrison, Sam Nataraj, Steven Ralston (Provost, ex officio), Steven Reid, Gilbert Remillard, Sandra Riegle, Brent Rogers, Chad Rogers, Roma Prindle, Kim Sharp, Tim Simpson, Joyce Stubbs, Sherry Surmont (Secretary), Sue Tallichet, Cathy Thomas, Michele Walters, Wesley White

Senators Absent Are Underlined Above (absences are not recorded as unexcused for “special called meetings”)

Guests: Dr. William Grise – sitting in for Senator Hans Chapman and Dr. Lesia Lennex – sitting in for Senator Riegle

Chair Adams presented the Senate with a resolution (fashioned by the Executive Council) with the purpose to assert the Senate’s stance on how the budget cuts are prioritized. There was considerable discussion, debate, and amendments in respects to the resolution. The resolution passed (Yes 34, No 1) by the Senate and sent to Administration is as follows:

Whereas Morehead State University is facing an \$8,859,900 cut to its operating budget as of July 1, 2016, with further reductions to follow if the state legislature adopts Governor Bevin’s proposed budget, and

Whereas such severe cuts, which come on top of several years of earlier budget reductions, will necessitate the reshaping of the institution, as the current quality, availability, and cost of the services Morehead State provides to its students, employees, alumni cannot be maintained with decreased funds, and

Whereas the Morehead State University Faculty Senate has pledged to work productively with the administration, and the rest of the campus community, to meet this budgetary crisis in order to uphold our mission of teaching, research, and service and our commitment to affordable access to post-secondary education in the region,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Morehead State University affirms that our institution can remain a comprehensive university only **if we retain our core value of keeping “people first” by making all practical cuts to non-personnel budgets before cutting personnel and focus our increasingly limited resources on the faculty and staff whose primary purpose is to facilitate the academic success of our students.**

Be it resolved that should personnel be terminated, the appropriate personnel policies, including those respecting and protecting tenure, will be followed. **Any decisions made to meet budget reductions must honor and protect the unique status of tenure for promoting intellectual freedom, a primary condition for the life of a healthy, functioning university.**

Be it resolved that the budgetary challenges that will inevitably arise within even a streamlined comprehensive university that properly prioritizes academics should be addressed through **true shared governance, in an open and transparent process where faculty are granted an equal voice with administration and students are empowered to publicly identify the institutional elements that directly foster their academic success.**

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Furthermore be it resolved that this prioritization of **academic success and shared governance** will move Morehead State University productively toward its preferred future, as this focus will allow the institution to meet the forthcoming challenge of performance metrics that will themselves be predicated on achieved milestones of student academic success.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:04 p.m.

Next meeting: March 3, 2016 – Riggle Room (ADUC)

Minutes Taken By: Sherry Surmont, Faculty Senate Secretary