The Faculty Senate and Shared Governance at MTSU
Universities have three components of governance

• Governing Board/Board of Trustees

• President

• Faculty
The Faculty Senate

- Your opportunity to participate in shared governance.
- Representative body of the faculty
- Deliberative assembly
- Advocates for faculty and policies in order to maintain the efficacy of academic programs
MTSU’s Articles of Shared Governance

- Rights and responsibilities of faculty include:
  - Initiate, review, revise, and approve changes to academic programs and curriculum.
  - Make recommendations on hiring, evaluation, renewal, tenure and promotion of faculty.
Through shared governance you have a voice in:

– Policies and procedures in areas that impact faculty
– Influence institutional priorities.
MTSU Policy 201

“Faculty participation in institutional governance, especially participation in shared governance through the MTSU Faculty Senate, is fundamental to the development and maintenance of effective academic policies, national and regional accreditation, and shared responsibility for the delivery of educational programs and services to students.”
Congratulations! You have representation on the Faculty Senate

• Department representative and college representative

• The Faculty Senate provides a forum for the expression of the concerns and issues of faculty.

• Tenured and tenure track faculty, who have served in that capacity for 5 semesters my serve on the Faculty Senate.
Please participate in shared governance

• Be an active participant in department-level decision making.
• Serve on your college’s committees.
• Serve on one of 43 university committees if you are tenure-track or tenured.
• Get to know your senators.
• Be informed about university policies.
MTSU Policies

University Policies

The following index is provided as an aid to finding the correct policy.

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# 200-299 Academic Affairs - Institution and Faculty

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You are a member of the "regular, full-time faculty" if...

You are a full-time employee and at least 50% of your workload is teaching, research/scholarship/creative activity, and/or service.

- **Tenured/Tenure Track:** Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor
- **Full time:** Master Instructor, Senior Instructor, Instructor, or Lecturer
“Academic freedom is essential to fulfill the ultimate objectives of an educational institution – the free search for and exposition of truth – and applies to teaching, research, and faculty participation in institutional governance.”

“Freedom in research is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty member in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning.”
Policy 201

“Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, being careful to avoid the persistent intrusion of matter, controversial or not, that has no bearing on the subject of instruction.”
Policy 201

“Faculty are members of a civic community, a learned profession, and an educational institution. When faculty members speak or write as members of a civic community, they are free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. Faculty should remember that the public may judge the profession and the University by their utterances. Hence, they should be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that they do not represent the University when speaking as members of a civic community.”
Working together through shared governance helps us to serve

- Our students
- Our communities
- Our professions
- Our society