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Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes

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9-13-2021

### 2021 September 13 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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# EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Faculty Senate

*September 13, 2021, 2:45 p.m. | Virtual Zoom Meeting*

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### **Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda**

1. Celebrations
2. Introductions of Guests
3. Announcements
4. Guest Speaker
  - a. Dr. Amy Johnson – Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)
5. Approval of Minutes from August 30, 2021
6. Action Items
7. Information Items
  - a. Motion Concerning COVID-19 – Mr. Funk
  - b. Handbook Committee Update – Dr. Epps
  - c. Board of Trustees Report – Dr. Foley
  - d. Standing Committee Need – Dr. Epps
  - e. Faculty Senate Retreat Survey Feedback – Mr. Hendrix
  - f. Reports from University Committees
    - University Council – Dr. Epps and Mr. Hendrix
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Comments from Guests
11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators
12. Adjourn



## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	09/13/2021	<b>Time:</b>	14:45 – 16:30	<b>Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	09/27/2021	<b>Scribe:</b>			Ashley Sergiadis
<b>Present:</b>	Beatty, Kate; Blackhart, Ginni; Blackwell, Roger; Bray, Sheree; Byington, Randy; Chakraborty, Kanishka; Cherry, Donna; Daniels, Jean; Digavalli, Siva; Dowling-McClay, Karilynn; Ecay, Thomas ; Elangovan, Saravanan; Ellis, Jon; Epps, Susan; Evanshen, Pam; Fisher, Stacey; Foley, Virginia; Frye, Stephanie; Funk, Bobby; Garris, Bill; Gentry, Retha; Gomez Sobrino, Isabel; Gray, Jeffrey; Hauldren, Kacie; Hawthorne, Sean; Hemphill, Bill; Hemphill, Jean; Hendrix, Stephen; Herrmann, Andrew; Hounshell, Jonathan; Johnson, Michelle; Kim, Sookhyun; Kruppa, Michael; Landis, Ryan; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; Mamudu, Hadii; McGarry, Theresa; Mitchell, Holly; Nivens, Ryan; O'Neil, Kason; Park, Esther; Schroder, Laurie; Sergiadis, Ashley; Stevens, Alan; Thompson, Beth Ann; Uddin, Mohammad; Walden, Rachel; Weyant, Emily; Youngberg, George; Zahner, Matt				
<b>Absent:</b>	Khan, Shoeb; Ramsey, Priscilla; Tai, Chih-Che				
<b>Excused:</b>	Burns, Bracken; De Oliveira Fiuza, Felipe; Thigpen, Jim; Trogen, Paul; Waters, Susan				

### Agenda Items

Meeting called to order
1. Celebrations
2. Introductions of Guests
3. Announcements
4. Guest Speaker
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Action Items
7. Information Items
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Comments from Guests
11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators
11. Adjourn

### DISCUSSIONS

1. Celebrations
1.1 Epps' son did a great job as the Red Hat at the football game on Saturday.
2. Introductions of Guests
2.1 New Senators to Faculty Senate introduced themselves: Jonathan Hounshell (CBAT), Moin Uddin (CBAT), Ryan Landis (QCOM), Kanishka Chakraborty (QCOM), Jean Daniels (QCOM), Sheree Bray (QCOM), George Youngberg (QCOM), Emily Weyant (QCOM), Karilynn Dowling-McCay (COP), Matthew Zahner (COPH)
2.2 Amy Johnson, Associate Provost for Faculty & Director of Center for Teaching Excellence
2.3: Abby Lopp and Fay Ansary, College of Pharmacy students



## DISCUSSIONS

### 3. Announcements

3.1 Walden announced that registration for ETSU's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Equity and Inclusion Conference ends Wednesday, September 15. It is virtual conference. Students can attend for free. Faculty can use their education benefits to cover the cost.

### 4. Guest Speaker -- Dr. Amy Johnson – Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)

4.1 Johnson presented on the past and present activities of the CTE.

- Johnson provided a summary of CTE activities last year.
  - 266 faculty served in 2020-2021
  - ~1950 hours of faculty development
  - 70 super-users (attended 3+ events)
  - 30 mega users (attended 5+ events)
  - One faculty member came to at least 14 events
  - >100 faculty attended CHIIPs in August 2021
- Johnson provided a summary of returning activities this fall.
  - Faculty Book Club: CTE buys the book for faculty who want to participate in a one-hour discussion of the book.
  - Teaching Essentials Workshops: The workshops review four things that CTE considers important to student success: (1) Respect for students as people and learners (2) Creating a community of learners (3) Feedback early and often (4) Active in collaborative learning
  - Universal Design and Accessibility Series
  - Open and Affordable Course Materials Workshop
  - Open Educational Resources Faculty Learning Community: This community is for faculty who earned an OER Award to help develop and implement those resources. It is facilitated in partnership with Ashley Sergiadis and Sherrod Library.
  - Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Faculty Learning Community: This is a community for faculty looking for ways to infuse scholarship into their courses and conduct educational research.
  - New Faculty Learning Community: This is a community for new faculty to connect with each other and learn about resources and skills for navigating the faculty career.
- Johnson provided a summary of new activities for 2020-2021:
  - Study Skills for Students presented by Phil Smith and Deidre Johnson discusses what you can do to help students leverage good study skills.
  - Taxonomies of Learning presented by Patrick Brown encourages faculty to think more about what type of learning they want students to do.
  - Specifications Grading presented by Alison Barton discusses a whole new approach to grading.
  - Active Learning Academy is a semester long experience that uses different educational theories to help faculty build active learning into their classrooms.
- In faculty mailboxes, there will be a brochure from the CTE. It includes a program description for each of their offerings and event calendar for the year.
- In addition to formal offerings, CTE offers personal consultations. CTE can also collaborate with faculty development committees at the department or college level and offer what they have identified as their needs. For example, CTE is working with the College of Pharmacy to conduct an item-writing workshop for test development. We have done workshops related to preventing academic misconduct. Contact any CTE staff to provide request workshops or one-on-one meetings.
- Amy Johnson asked what CTE is not doing that they should be. CTE is always looking to expand their program offerings.



## DISCUSSIONS

### 4.2 Johnson answered questions from Senators.

**Nivens:** Have you restocked the refrigerator in the faculty lounge?

**Johnson:** Yes. We have a faculty lounge on the fourth floor of Sherrod Library that has coffee, snacks, drinks, water, etc. You can come hang out in that space anytime. We are thinking about having some Friday afternoon writing times when you can bring your laptop and meet with a writing community.

**Byington:** Senate over the years has looked into having a faculty club. I am wondering if the faculty lounge might evolve into something that would meet that collaborative need as well as your needs.

**Johnson:** The lounge can be a space where faculty come and be together. The challenge is we cannot leave the space open after 4:30 PM so it does not fulfill that afterhours need of a faculty club.

**Digavalli:** Your programs last year was very helpful to us, especially new faculty, to transition completely to virtual (e.g. creating videos, organizing D2L pages). I want to thank you as well as your entire team, including Patrick Brown, for all the help you provide it to us.

**Johnson:** Thank you. I appreciate it.

**Blackhart:** I like the idea of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) community. When I think about SoTL, I am usually looking for collaborators to work with outside of psychology. It would be useful to have an electronic message board or something for people who want to discuss their SoTL ideas, join in on a project, or look for collaborators on their own project. Some people may not want or need a full semester community.

**Johnson:** The learning community grew out of a workshop, so we could definitely do more one off kinds of things like that. I will share this with my team. I think we could leverage this community, especially in an interdisciplinary fashion.

**Uddin:** You offer so many wonderful things, especially for the starting faculty. Do you oversee the tutoring activities? What is the process to include more topics for tutoring, especially for engineering students?

**Johnson:** I will reach out to Deidre Johnson who is the Director of CFAA Learning Services and set up a meeting where we can discuss the challenges that your students are having.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

**Hendrix** questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 08/30/2021 meeting.

**Sergiadis** received some minor edits from Senator Epps. There was an additional substantial edit from Senators Epps and McGarry. They noticed that the question in the minutes stated, "can I ask my students to vaccinate if they have done so." It should be "if they have not done so."

**No Objection: Minutes Approved**

### 6. Action Items

None.

### 7. Information Items

#### 7.1 Motion Concerning COVID-19 – Mr. Funk

This motion will become an official item on the floor for action in September 27 meeting.

**Funk:** I have spoken with the art and theatre faculty who have expressed concern with COVID and what is going on in their classes. I did not know if I would be able to make it today because I have been dealing with cancellations and a student who has a COVID. I have been doing a lot of research into what other schools are doing. If we are dedicated to providing the safest learning environment without sacrificing the high quality of education of our students, it is time to take action to curtail the further spread of COVID on campus. It is getting worse in this region and we are starting to see numbers rise with students. I am especially concerned about events on campus that are being held without



## DISCUSSIONS

participants wearing masks, including sporting events. The faculty that I have talked to want to teach live, but conditions can change in a classroom not just from day to day but from hour to hour. Faculty need the option to change the format of a class as situations change on campus. We want more assurance from the administration with the rise of COVID-19 infections that we can change the format of our class if we have to. I am urging (1) to require masks at all university events, including sporting events, (2) to encourage social distancing, and (3) to support all the faculty decisions to change the format of a class from in person to online when COVID-19 infections dictate such a change. Many of these ideas are supported by new things coming out of the CDC. Dr. Fauci said that we should consider wearing masks at any crowded outdoor event or activity when there is close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

**Hemphill (J.):** I received a call today from one of my constituents who is not anti-vax, but had some concerns about a motion that states we should make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory. This person wanted to make sure that I presented the position of advocating for personal health decision making. Personally, I think the vaccine should be mandated. This person also believes that the vaccine should be mandated but also is conflicted with the personal health choice issue.

**Hendrix:** Please make sure to bring those comments back two weeks from now during the discussion on the motion.

**Thompson:** My conversation was much the same. It was focused around making our own personal health choices.

**Hendrix:** Please bring those comments back in the next meeting.

**Byington:** Sporting events that are held inside do require masks. We probably need to mention the requirement of masks at all university events, including all outside events.

**Hendrix:** That may need to come as a friendly amendment in future discussions.

7.2 Handbook Committee Update – Dr. Epps  
None.

7.3 Board of Trustees Report – Dr. Foley

The Board of Trustees has a retreat this Thursday from 12:30 to 6:30 PM. On Friday, we have our meetings. The first meeting is the Audit Committee at 8:00 AM. The next meeting is Academic Success and Research from 9:45 to 10:45 AM, followed by the Finance Committee from 11:00 AM to 12:00, and the full board meeting beginning at 1. The Friday meetings take place in the East Tennessee room in the Culp. They are open so you are welcome to attend. The board materials are posted now on the Board of Trustees website.

7.4 Standing Committee Need – Dr. Epps

We need a representative from the Senate for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. If anyone is interested in serving, let Susan Epps know.

7.5 Faculty Senate Retreat Survey Feedback – Mr. Hendrix

President Hendrix sent the responses from the survey on Senate goals as it relates to faculty and students as well as other general feedback. Executive Committee observed the need to support faculty as a theme in the responses. However, the questions remain what does that support look like and how do we support faculty during and post pandemic. The Executive Committee felt it would be important to identify a working group on this topic. Over the next week, I would like to identify a chair to lead a work group to look at faculty concerns. This may turn into several work groups based on what is identified as priorities. If you have an interest in serving in that working group, let President Hendrix know. Senators should review the document to see what areas Faculty Senate could take the lead in providing leadership and support on campus.



## DISCUSSIONS

### 7.6 Reports from University Committees

#### 7.6.1 University Council – Dr. Epps and Mr. Hendrix

In the last University Council meeting, there was a host of policy changes related to leave (e.g. separation from the institution, annual leave, transfer leave) that were discussed and approved. They had been out for comment and received some feedback. Dr. Noland noted in his report that ETSU has one of the strongest masking policies for state institutions. The university officially hired three contact tracers to help with contact tracing at ETSU. Many state institutions are not doing contact tracing at this time. He highlighted the provision of five administrative days for COVID quarantine or isolation into additional administrative days for COVID vaccination. Dr. Noland noted in his report enrollment are up for freshman (by 205), international, transfer, and dual enrollment students. The struggle of the institution is currently around retention and retaining students. All of the other categories of students coming back to the institution saw a decrease, which has led to the overall decrease at the institutional level.

#### 7.6.2 IRB – Dr. Garris

ETSU's IRB has been accredited by AAHRPP. In August - after compiling 1500+ pages of documentation - the ETSU IRB hosted a site visit. The site visit went swimmingly. The site visit identified one resolvable finding. The lead reviewer said that in their decade or so of overseeing the process they had only seen a single program proceed without a finding. Our ETSU IRB performed exceedingly well, expects to address the single concern, and to receive a formal declaration of their continued accreditation when the AAHRPP makes publicizes their determination in December. This is a wonderful achievement from our ETSU IRB!

#### 7.6.3 General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) – Dr. Garris

This is a larger committee with about 24 +/- faculty. There are many subcommittees - around the six pillars of general education (i.e. Communication, Humanities and Fine Arts). Dr. Bill Flora (Chair) is supporting a conversation around the size and composition of these committees so that they contain both the expertise required and appropriate College representation (i.e., Colleges that have a course in Gen Ed also have a seat at the table). No decisions about general education are being made nor pending. There is only conversation about the makeup of these guiding subcommittees.

**O'Neil:** Is GEAC accepting applications for general education or are they still on a hold?

**Garris:** I believe they are accepting proposals for courses to be added into the general education curriculum. I think that they are looking to have proposal submitted by November if you are looking to have a course considered for 2023.

**McGarry:** I think the mechanism is up in the air right now. Use whatever mechanism you know. If you do not know which one to use, ask Senator Garris.

**Garris:** They are looking to build it into the existing Curriculog system so that the process is simplified and redundancies are somewhat reduced.

**Blackhart:** Bill Kirkwood started the whole overhaul of general education. I know that GEAC was not exactly a part of that. Is that what the six subcommittees are for? Where is the reevaluation of general education? I have not heard any updates recently.

**Garris:** There was a general education renewal effort that was started about three or four years ago. After two or three years of effort, that effort was suspended, dropped, and/or handed over to Bill Flora. Currently, there is no discussions underway about changing the curriculum. There are only conversations about who might have some oversight over the six different pillars of general. This is very preliminary. These are conversations about who would be involved in vetting courses that might be submitted to GEAC.

#### 7.6.2 ITS Governance Committee – Mr. Hemphill (B.)

The ITS Governance Committee meeting was rescheduled for a later date.



**DISCUSSIONS**

7.6.3 URAC – Dr. Herrmann  
Nothing to report.

7.6.4 Quality Effectiveness Sub Council (QESC) – Dr. Byington  
Nothing to report.

8. Old Business  
None.

9. New Business  
None.

10. Comments from Guests  
None.

11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators  
None.

12. Adjourn

**Motion to Adjourn: Nivens**  
**Second: Epps**  
**Meeting Adjourned**

*Please notify Senator Ashley Sergiadis ([sergiadis@etsu.edu](mailto:sergiadis@etsu.edu), Faculty Senate Secretary, 2020-2021) of any changes or corrections to the minutes.*



Motion:

I move to call on the administration to:

- require masks at all university events, including sports events.
- encourage social distancing,
- to support a faculty decisions to change the format of a class from in person to online when Covid-19 infections dictate such a change,
- urge the administration to keep striving to make the Covid-19 vaccine mandatory for all ETSU students, faculty and staff.

Rationale:

"People come first at East Tennessee State University. The COVID-19 pandemic has required adjustments to university procedures and operations in order to safeguard the health of our students, faculty, staff, and campus. ETSU remains dedicated to providing the safest learning environment without sacrificing the high quality education our students expect and deserve."

If ETSU is to live up to this statement, it is time to do something about the rise of Covid-19 cases here at ETSU. August 16-22 there was one case of Covid-19 on the ETSU campus. As of yesterday, September 3, 2021 there are 81. The rapid rise of cases is throughout the entire region surrounding the campus. On August 27, WJHL reported, "The number of active cases of COVID-19 in Northeast Tennessee reached a new high on Friday. The region's active case count climbed to 5,632, surpassing the previous record of 5,434 active cases set on Dec. 20. The Tennessee Department of Health also reported 591 new COVID-19 cases, and 10 new deaths." According to David McGee of the Bristol Herald Courier "all of this suffering is occurring in a region where more than six in 10 residents aren't fully vaccinated. On Friday, 39.8% — just over 244,000 of 613,000 residents of 10 Northeast Tennessee counties — were fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus, according to the Tennessee Department of Health." Our county, Washington County, is below 50% and we can only assume that the numbers of unvaccinated are about the same among ETSU students. We assume, because as faculty, we are not allowed to ask if students are vaccinated or not. Already, faculty have been told to isolate at home because of students in their classes coming down with Covid-19. When this happens, either classes get cancelled or the faculty must move the class to an online format.

At ETSU masks are required in classes, but not at university sponsored events, and not while the students are outside a building. When members of the administration have been asked why, the answer is "the CDC does not say masks are required when outdoors". Yet the CDC has recommended masks, even for vaccinated people at "crowded outdoor events, such as concerts or sporting events, attending full-capacity indoor religious services, and working out in indoor gyms."

(<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/do-i-need-mask-outdoors-cdc-says-certain-activities-are-n1265452>) And these events are especially unsafe for individuals who are not vaccinated and not wearing a mask and/or social distancing.

There is a huge difference in the need for a mask when outdoors alone and when outdoors in a crowd and face to face with other individuals. "In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully

vaccinated." (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>)

"To safeguard the health of our students, faculty, staff, and campus", it is time for ETSU to follow the lead of Duke University Athletics, Oregon State or Los Angeles County and require masks at athletic games, concerts and at all campus events, and to urge everyone on campus to practice social distancing at all times. As Sankar Swaminathan, chief of the infectious diseases department at the Utah School of Medicine, and a member of the Pac-12's COVID-19 advisory panel has stated, "If you have an outdoor stadium and fans wear face coverings and are six feet apart and are careful about common areas and restrooms, the risk could be mitigated significantly."

If "ETSU remains dedicated to providing the safest learning environment without sacrificing the high quality education our students expect and deserve" then it is time to take action to help curtail a further spread of this disease which, if not slowed down, will force the university to cancel classes and/or move to campus wide full-time online learning.

Our faculty want to teach and most of the faculty want their classes to be live and in person. Conditions in a class can change from day to day, or for that matter, hour to hour. We need the option to change the format of a class when the changing situation on campus dictates a needed change, and we want support from the administration when the rise of Covid-19 infections dictates such a change in class format.

The ETSU Faculty Senate urges the university to make immediate changes in the university's Covid-19 policy. We call on the administration to require masks to be worn for all classes and at all university events, including sporting events. We urge the administration to encourage social distancing at all times while on campus. We also urge the administration to support a faculty member's decision to change the format of a class from in person to online when Covid-19 infections dictate such a change, to keep students, staff and faculty safe. Finally we urge the administration to keep striving to make the Covid-19 vaccine mandatory for all ETSU students, faculty and staff.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/fauci-on-college-football-stadiums-packed-with-maskless-fans-i-dont-think-its-smart/ar-AAOc9P5?ocid=entnewsntp>

## Faculty Senate Goals 2021-2022

Below are the results from the electronic survey conducted after the 2021 Fall Retreat.

Please share one way in which you would like to see Faculty Senate support Faculty in the 2021-2022 year.

None at this time.
more discussion regarding issues that directly impact faculty - such as a more vocal support for faculty when there is conflict with upper administration
Workload and work flexibility support--there seem to be differences that we could learn about and from across the University.
Be more cheerful.
Protect the faculty from COVID-19 by calling for the wearing of masks at all events, both inside and outside (including sports events) Also to call for social distancing across the campus at all events (including sports events).
Resources to improve teaching
As senators, we could do periodic (monthly?) check-ins with our constituents - ask how they are doing, what challenges they are experiencing, what they need - and then do what we can to address those.
Support policies and procedures that support faculty such as paid parental leave, generous work from home permissions, ability to protect themselves during COVID, etc.
I'd like to see the Faculty Senate play a more vocal role, representing and supporting our faculty's needs better.
Continue to encourage flexibility in faculty schedules in light of Covid. Continue to support faculty as they try innovative ways in education
Providing continual updates to faculty regarding COVID-19 and making sure faculty feel safe and supported in their decisions to manage their classes the way that makes most sense for the individual.
Be a voice for the teaching faculty who are vaccinated and those who chose not to be. I recognize this will be a difficult task.
I think Faculty Senate did an outstanding job last year and would like to see that continue - support for faculty in light of the current health and vaccination situation in our region, as well as the tension between the financial concerns of the administration and the concerns regarding faculty and families
I think the office hours are a great idea. I would advertise the office hours and "ask an admin" form in the faculty/staff newsletter to encourage participation from faculty outside of Faculty Senate. I'm not sure if the Faculty Senate Office Hours are for Faculty Senators only. However, faculty outside of Faculty Senate may be interested in attending if they have questions or need guidance. I know my faculty are always asking me to "ask Faculty Senate" when there are issues or concerns.
Can we please do something about the way in which we have to try to get reimbursed for travel? This isn't the 1970s anymore.
Also, the idea that the new Humanities Building will not have faculty offices leads me to ask, "Where are they going to put us?" CAS faculty are already doubled up in offices in some buildings. This does not bode well for the idea that "ETSU respects its faculty."
Oh...mandate the vaccine.

Support faculty instructors who have concerns about the current in class teaching with students, who feel less secure in the age of COVID even with currently available vaccines.
No bright ideas right now - sorry!
ETSU is putting Faculty, Staff and Students in harms way by moving so many on campus so quickly while the hospitals warn us they are at capacity with Covid patients due to surge in the delta variant. The senate should push administration to reduce that risk to faculty, staff and students by providing sufficient ventilation, N95 masks, and other steps to provide a safe working and learning environment.
I would like to see Faculty Senate support Faculty by advocating for more equitable pay ACROSS colleges/departments, also assisting in negating the "take-back" of faculty budget lines.
I would like to see the Faculty Senate support faculty safety and comfort amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe that Senate members should openly listen to the needs of the faculty and represent these needs in conversations with administration.
Communication between the faculty body and the administration. Represent the professional interests of the faculty body.
I would like to see the senate fighting for institutional support for new faculty across the board. While some departments might offer a start-up fund, that's unheard of at the CAS, for example. Also, I would like to see the creation of an office for international scholars that is capable of offering international faculty free legal advice.
This is a very challenging year so I would like to see this continuing support of Faculty in terms of teaching and research. We all have different scenarios and we don't know what's coming. I hope for the best though.

Please share one way in which you would like to see Faculty Senate support Students in the 2021-2022 year.

None at this time.
More support to issues brought up by students in their legislative body - they depend upon us to have their back.
More work on equity and inclusion, support of the emerging needs of students with the pandemic.
Be kind to your students.
See answer above.
Resources to adjust back to on ground learning
We need to treat them kindly, and with grace. We don't know what they are experiencing and they may not want to tell us, but if we truly care about them (and don't act like jerks) they might just share with us and then we can help them find assistance, or just be there to listen. Our classes AREN'T the only things in their lives.
Support students in improving the university to suit their needs, support their constitutional rights (such as related to the basketball incident), support their ability to challenge racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. throughout the institution.
Likewise, I'd like to see the faculty senate be more actively involved with the issues regarding curriculum, COVID safety measures, social justice issues, et.c
I hope we can continue to encourage students to develop resiliency.
As a new member of faculty senate I am not sure how it has supported students in the past. Are students permitted to file a comment or question to Faculty Senate? With the return to campus it

may be worthwhile having some sort of open forum or a way for students to ask questions or communicate directly with the Senate.
Offer SGA leaders an opportunity to speak with the FS once this semester.
Faculty Senate needs to ensure that we are not just paying lip service as an institution to student mental health, but also supporting it in the best ways possible. That may not mean by bringing students online, but perhaps by suspending traditional grading, providing tutoring services, or helping with childcare. I don't know what the possibilities are, but I hope we can be creative and open.
I would like to see representatives from SGA speak to Faculty Senate about their goals for this year.
Mandate the vaccine.
Move more toward Open education Resources.
I'd like to see more support for Medical students who do quite a bit of community projects/drives to be given a spotlight once in a while as there already is quite a bit of support for the undergraduate student community.
Encourage each department to set up a digital suggestion box and ask students what they want/need from us.
By pushing for a safe learning environment.
I would like to see Faculty Senate support students, perhaps in collaborative efforts with Student Affairs, who have been directly effected by, or lost family members to, Covid.
I would like to see the Faculty Senate continue to support student requests and student protests, particularly with regard to issues of social justice. I believe that it is invaluable to students to have their messages supported by the Faculty Senate. I would like to see the Senate openly listen to and discuss issues that are raised by students, and to formally support them when needed.
to have ETSU a place advance students' knowledge and skills which can benefit their professional careers beyond ETSU. Make a higher education more relevant to students' lives.
The office for international scholars should actually be for students and scholars instead. We also need more gender neutral restrooms across campus, literally for everyone.
I also think that students are having a hard time since the pandemic started. With all the uncertainties that came with the pandemic we should support the students and try to do our best for them to succeed. I really don't know how that translates into specific goals but I think we should talk about it during one of our meetings.

Please share any other feedback you have for Faculty Senate for the 2021-2022 year (goals, concerns, questions, topics to be addressed, etc.).

None at this time.
Discussion of our role and how we can be less reactive and more proactive. I would like to see the senate push leadership on issues such as paid parental leave, support for childcare, and other needs of younger faculty and staff. As the world changes and more people can work remote we will continue to lose good young faculty to places that are better to work.
We should also call for the planting of trees across the campus. Ground sleeping has cut down many of our older shade trees. Those trees make our campus special. With global warming, the shade of

trees is most welcome. This act may also be a way to raise funds. Plant a tree to honor someone for a determined amount of donation.

One thing Covid has taught us is that we CAN change quickly - and do it better than we expected. So this is something we had discussed with the President at some point and it got lost in the shuffle I'm afraid, but we have processes on campus that aren't user-friendly, that are inefficient, or in which people just simply drop the ball. I'd like to see us address our processes - seriously - and with an eye for efficiency and for improving the experience of students in particular, but all of us in general.

I am deeply grateful for these group of dedicated colleagues. I just wish that our voices be heard and that we be a much more active group around the campus to adequately deliver the work we do during our meetings.

I have been off Faculty Senate for a while. I am looking forward to participating again.

Highlight the CTE more often. They do great work and can improve instruction across campus.

None - just excited for the future

None at the moment, but I've only been a senator for 5 minutes.

none at this time

n/a

I would like to see some discussions that are open and free and based in best relational and contribution-based practices, not Robert's Rules.

I hope we can be more aware of fiscal sustainability of our university.

UH concerns mee, since we have been struggling to find a balance between ETSU policies and TN state policies. Maybe for next term we should offer an online option in order to reduce the number of students in the classroom?