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Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes

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2020 January 27 – Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Agenda

January 27, 2020

2:45 p.m. Millennium Center 137A

1. Celebrations
2. Introductions of Guests
3. Announcements
4. Presentations
 - a. Dr. Amy Johnson – Discussion on proposed ETSU Attendance Policy
5. Approval of minutes from December 02, 2019
6. Information items
 - a. College Elections – Dr. McGarry
 - b. Handbook Committee update – Dr. Epps
 - c. Board of Trustees report – Dr. Foley
 - d. Faculty Sub Council Collaborative report – Mr. Hemphill
 - e. Working Groups Report – Work Group Chair
 - Administrative Review – Dr. O’Neil
 - Shared Governance – Dr. Lyons
 - Campus Communications – Dr. Garris
 - Faculty Safety and Planning – Dr. Pealer
7. Action Items
 - a. Committee on Committees – Dr. Epps
8. New Business
 - a. Discussion on the role of Committee on Committees – Dr. Epps
 - b. Discussion on formation of Ad Hoc committee to draft resolution concerning paid family leave
 - c. (Information) Upcoming election of Executive Committee At-Large member to replace Dr. Jeff Gray.
9. Old Business
10. Comments from guests
11. Adjourn



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	1/27/20	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Millennium Center 137A
Next Meeting:	2/10/20	Scribe:			Eric Sellers
Present:	Alexander, Katelyn; Alsop, Fred; Anand, Rajani; Blackhart, Ginette; Brown, Patrick; Burford, Mike; Cherry, Donna; Collins, Charles; Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Dorothy; Dunn, Andrew; Ellis, Jon; Emma, Todd; Epps, Susan; Evanshen, Pam; Fraysier, Donna; Garris, Bill; Hagemeyer, Nick; Hemphill, Bill; Hemphill, Jean; Hendrix, Stephen; Holmes, Alan; Johnson, Mikki; Johnson, Michelle; Kim, Sookhyn; Kostrzewa, Richard; Livingston, James; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; Marek, Greta; McGarry, Theresa; Oh, Sunny; Olson, Nate; O'Neil, Kason; Owens, Bea; Peterson, Jonathan; Ramsey, Priscilla; Ransom, Mark; Sellers, Eric; Sergiadis, Ashley; Stone, William; Taylor, Teresa Brooks; Trogen, Paul; Walden, Rachel				
Absent:					
Excused:	Burns, Bracken; Byington, Randy; Chen, Yi-Yang; Foley, Virginia; Gray, Jeffrey; Pealer, Jennifer; Sarkodie, Olga; Sargsyan, Alex; Silver, Ken				

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order

1. Celebrations
2. Introductions
3. Announcements
4. Presentation
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Informational Items
7. Action Items
8. New Business
9. Old Business
10. Comments from Guests
11. Adjourn

DISCUSSIONS

1. Celebrations
 - 1.1 **Epps** noted that the Greyscale and Ascension vocal groups won awards at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), which was held at UTK.
 - 1.2 Alsop shared that the eagle at Bluff City laid its first egg of the year at 3:35 AM today.
2. Introductions

No guests.
3. Announcements

No announcements.



DISCUSSIONS

4. Presentation: Dr. Amy Johnson – Discussion on proposed ETSU Attendance Policy

4.1 Johnson described that the university has not had an “official” policy in the past and presented the proposed attendance policy. The policy has not gone out for public comment and Dr. Johnson presented the policy to get feedback from the Faculty Senate before it goes out for public comment.

Discussion

4.2 The policy provides excused absences for “special circumstances”. **Emma** asked for a definition of special circumstances. **Johnson** replied that there is not a definition and it is at the discretion of the instructor.

4.3 **Peterson** added that he would like a definition of what constitutes bereavement.

4.4 **Trogen** stated that he approves of the proposed policy.

4.5 **Ramsey** suggested a solution she has used in the past, which is to allow students to take make-up exams at the end of the semester regardless of the cause of the absence.

4.6 **Walden** approved of the flexibility allowed by the policy allows because courses may be more or less dependent on participation, and she was also like to see civic responsibility addressed more directly.

4.7 **Dunn** asked for further clarification of the illness portion of the policy. **Johnson** replied that there is a difference between what should be policy and what should be best practice. From class to class and situation to situation it can vary significantly.

4.8 **Jean Hemphill** stated that for graduate students who have a serious illness she has issued a grade of incomplete and allow the student to complete the work after they recover.

4.9 **McGarry** suggested there will always be a tension between professors wanting to make their own decisions and applying policy consistently. Thus, there is no reason to have a university level policy that micro-manages attendance.

4.10 **Peterson** expressed concern regarding the policy stating that university sponsored events cannot be counted as absences because some classes (e.g., lab sections) require attendance in order to pass the course. **Walden** questioned what defines a university sponsored activity. **Johnson** replied that regularly occurring activities do not count, rather they are events that are beyond the students’ control, such as an athletic event. **Epps** added that student athletes are not allowed to miss class for a practice.

4.11 **Hendrix** recommended that the policy should include language as to what is a university sponsored event.

5. Approval of Minutes

Hendrix questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 12/2/19 meeting.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

6. Informational Items

6.1 College Elections – Dr. McGarry / Dr. Epps

McGarry will contact each college in February to make sure the election timeline is acceptable.

6.2 Handbook Committee update – Dr. Epps

Currently waiting on policies to move through the appropriate channels.



DISCUSSIONS

6.3 Board of Trustees report – Dr. Foley

The next BOT meeting will be held on Friday, February 21.

6.4 Faculty Sub Council Collaborative report – Mr. Hemphill

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 7. Faculty are no longer able to login to Enterprise Rental Car using the Emerald Club membership and faculty should not change their account to Enterprise Plus because you will lose the rewards earned.

6.5 Questions concerning 01.06.2020 Senate Exec meeting with Dr. Noland – Mr. Hendrix

Alsop questioned whether the equity gap for some faculty is \$100,000. Hendrix replied that in QCOM and Pharmacy some faculty have large discrepancies.

6.6 Working Groups Report – Work Group Chair

6.6.1 Administrative Review – Dr. O’Neil

No report.

6.6.2 Shared Governance – Dr. Lyons

The committee is still working on recommendations and will present at the February 10 or February 24 meeting.

6.6.3 Campus Communication – Dr. Garris

Faculty Senate feedback has been incorporated into a new online survey that will be distributed to all faculty within the next two weeks.

6.6.4 Faculty Safety and Planning – Dr. Pealer

No report.

7. Action Items

7.1 Committee on Committees – Dr. Epps

7.1.1 The members of the Committee on Committees will have a meeting with Dr. Epps at the conclusion of today’s meeting to determine how to select from the large number of volunteers to serve on the Parking Committee.

7.2.2 Two positions have been filled:

Donna Cherry – Library online working group

Randy Byington – will replace Jennifer Pealer on Graduate Council

8. New Business

8.1 Discussion on the role of Committee on Committees – Dr. Epps

8.1.1 The committee has been trying to determine how to select people for committees. When numerous people volunteer to serve on a committee it is difficult to select the most appropriate representatives. Moving forward, senate will select representatives when someone from the senate is required to sit on a committee; when a faculty member at large is needed the specific committee will be responsible for



DISCUSSIONS

selection of members. In order to facilitate this process, a website is going to be developed to allow people to search for committees that have vacancies and to apply for membership. **Peterson** replied that he is in favor of the proposed model. **Epps** continued to say that people who are faculty senate representatives on standing university committees should be providing updates to faculty senate on the activities of their committee.

8.2 Discussion on formation of Ad Hoc committee to draft resolution concerning paid family leave

8.2.1 **Hendrix** noted that last year the Staff Senate drafted a resolution in support of paid family medical leave and inquired whether the Faculty Senate would be interested in drafting a similar resolution. **Emma** questioned what the university is currently doing and **Hendrix** replied that they are examining the possibility of following the recent state proposal that is implementing paid family leave for approximately 35,000 state executive branch employees. **Sellers** indicated that Dr. Leigh Johnson from QCOM would be interested in serving on the committee. **Hendrix** clarified that the role of the Ad Hoc committee would be to draft a resolution similar to the one adopted by the staff senate and that a committee to explore recommendations for further action could also be considered. **Alexander** agreed to chair the Ad Hoc committee.

8.3 (Information) Upcoming election of Executive Committee At-Large member to replace Dr. Jeff Gray

9. Old Business

None.

10. Comments from Guests

None.

11. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Brown
Second: Peterson
Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Senator Eric Sellers (sellers@etsu.edu or 9-4476, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2019-2020) of any changes or corrections to the minutes.