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11-4-2019

2019 November 4 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Agenda

November 4, 2019

2:45 p.m. Sam Wilson Hall room 230

1. Celebrations
2. Introductions of Guests
3. Announcements: Operational Alignment website:

<https://www.etsu.edu/academicaffairs/pds/strategicplan/strategicplan.php>

This is where information will be posted related to current work related to operations at ETSU. Current information: Research and Innovation Workgroup and East Tennessee State Academic Advising Review

4. Presentation / Discussion(s):
 - a. General Education Work Committee - Discussion / Information - Members of the Gen Ed Work Committee
5. Approval of minutes from October 21, 2019
6. Information item(s)
 - a. College Elections – Dr. MacGarry / Dr. Epps
 - 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 –
 - Shared Governance –
 - Campus Communications –
 - Faculty Safety and Planning –
7. Action Item(s)
 - a. Committee on Committees – Dr. Epps
8. New Business
 - a. Motion (Information): The Faculty Senate Constitution be amended to include only the current Preamble and Articles I, II, and VII
9. Old Business
 - a. Work Groups Updates
10. Comments from guests
11. Adjourn

Next meeting: November 18, 2019
November 11, 2019 – Veterans Day ETSU CLOSED
Board of Trustees Meeting – Nov. 15, 2019 Millennium Center
https://www.etsu.edu/trustees/schedule/committee_schedule.php



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	11/04/19	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Sam Wilson Hall room 230
Next Meeting:	11/18/19	Scribe:			Eric Sellers
Present:	Alexander, Katelyn; Alsop, Fred; Anand, Rajani; Blackhart, Ginette; Brown, Patrick; Burford, Mike; Byington, Randy; Chen, Yi-Yang; Cherry, Donna; Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Dorothy; Ellis, Jon; Epps, Susan; Evanshen, Pam; Flora, Bill; Garris, Bill; Gray, Jeffrey; Hendrix, Stephen; Hemphill, Jean; Johnson, Michelle; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; Marek, Greta; McGarry, Theresa; Olson, Nate; O'Neil, Kason; Owens, Bea; Pealer, Jennifer; Peterson, Jonathan; Ramsey, Priscilla; Ransom, Mark; Sargsyan, Alex; Sergiadis, Ashley; Silver, Ken; Smith, Samuel; Stone, William; Taylor, Teresa Brooks; Trogen, Paul; Walden, Rachel				
Absent:	Collins, Charles; Emma, Todd; Livingston, James;				
Excused:	Burns, Bracken; Dunn, Andrew; Foley, Virginia; Fraysier, Donna; Hagemeyer, Nick; Hemphill, Bill; Holmes, Alan; Johnson, Mikki; Kim, Sookhyn; Kostrzewa, Richard; Oh, Sunny; Sarkodie, Olga; Sellers, Eric				

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. **Gray** announced that he and his wife will be adopting a girl from foster care.

1.2 **Epps** noted that the students participated in the So-Con Undergraduate Research Forum last week. The students did a great job and it was an excellent opportunity for them to share their research and learn about research being conducted by students at other universities.

2. Introductions

2.1 Dr. Bethany Novotny was present to discuss a draft of the General Education Renewal Coordinating Committee report that has been submitted to the Provost.



DISCUSSIONS

3. Announcements

3.1 Operational Alignment website: <https://www.etsu.edu/academicaffairs/pds/strategicplan/strategicplan.php>
This is where information on current work related to operations at ETSU will be posted. Current information: Research and Innovation Workgroup and East Tennessee State Academic Advising Review

3.1.1 **Flora** announced that the website includes a repository of information related to the academic revising review and the rationale for the new structure of academic advising at the university.

4. Presentation: General Education Work Committee - Discussion / Information - Members of the Gen Ed Work Committee

4.1 Brown and Novotny are members of the committee and have come as committee representatives to answer questions in regard to the committee's report. **Brown** noted that the committee was formed by Dr. Bach with two primary tasks in mind: one, to advise Academic Council on changes or proposals regarding the purpose of general education and evidence-based teaching practices and to develop a plan for what results from the renewal process; two, to comply with SACS standards and to honor TN Pathways transfer agreements. Surveys were sent out to faculty in the fall and over two hundred responses were received. In ETSU 1020 courses, focus groups were held and student input was received about the general education experience. Subsequently, a mission statement for Gen Ed at ETSU was drafted. Five aims emerged across all content areas, which are to 1) gain skills in inquiry; 2) gain skills in analysis (critical thinking, problem solving and application); 3) increase communication (oral and written); 4) have an opportunity to apply cross-disciplinary application; and, 5) to expand worldview.

4.2 **Brown** continued that the committee has recommended that the current requirements for history be modified such that: 1) Courses other than U.S. History may be included in the Gen. Ed. Curriculum, 2) topical courses in U.S. History can also be included in the Gen. Ed. Curriculum, and 3) Students must take at least one non-U.S. History. Special topics can also fill requirements if they are taught at the 1000/2000 level. IT will be moved back into Gen Ed although it can still be filled with a proficiency exam or CSCI 1110. After all of the work is completed the draft will be sent out for public comment.

4.3 **Blackhart** questioned how restrictive the best teaching practices listed in the draft are meant to be in relation to academic freedom. **Brown** responded that they are not very restrictive and the committee has identified four essentials; respect for the student, providing feedback early and often, creating a community of learners, and using active and collaborative learning. Courses going into the core must demonstrate how anyone teaching a given course will address the essentials. **Novotny** added that the best teaching practices sub-committee has spent a lot of time looking at the literature and developing the four essentials. The policy may feel restrictive to some who do not want to change, but it solidifies common goals for Gen Ed classes.

4.4 **Stone** questioned whether we should have a policy to adopt a campus-wide interactive software for all faculty to use, and the library does not include online audio books. **Brown** noted that there is a representative from university libraries on the committee and he will pass the information along to them. Currently there is not a campus-wide digital learning software because there has not been a great enough demand to warrant the expense. **Sergiadis** added that the library should be notified with requests for specific products. **Alexander** further noted that a wish list of resources could be compiled by the committee.

4.5 **Lyons** questioned why US history is being targeted because students need to know about US history, and why only three hours of literature are required, as both of these are important for students to become productive members of society. **Jean Hemphill** agreed with Lyons. **Brown** noted that the suggestions will be taken to the committee. In regard to the literature requirement, this cannot be changed due to the TN Pathways and FOCUS Act.

4.6 **Flora** asked when the new Gen Ed will come into effect. **Brown** replied that it should be implemented in fall 2021.



DISCUSSIONS

4.7 **Byington** stated that, according to SACS guidelines, faculty own the curriculum and there may be a mechanism to advocate for these changes using TUFs (TN University Faculty Senate) on behalf of all of the TN public universities.

4.8 **Peterson** noted that many Gen Ed courses are taught by adjunct faculty or multiple faculty and the faculty member teaching the course designs a specific syllabus each semester, while another is kept on file in the Gen Ed curriculum. Moreover, he questioned whether there is a set of minimum standards for Gen Ed instructors or whether this is something we are not worried about. **Novotny** replied that knowing there would be numerous adjunct faculty teaching courses, departments are going to have to develop methods to make sure standards are being followed. Brown added that there may need to be an ongoing review process where every couple of years departments will need to demonstrate that the four essentials are being met in each class. **Novotny** added that the process is not meant to place additional requirements on faculty or limit academic freedom; the idea is to promote what the literature says are best practices.

4.9 **McGarry** noted that 'preparing students as responsible citizens' is listed in the faculty and staff rankings of purposes; however, is not listed in the aims and it is only mentioned in passing later in the document. Moreover, it would be good to see a larger emphasis on citizenship. **Brown** noted the suggestion will be taken back to the committee.

4.10 **Alsop** noted that all Gen Ed course will need to be re-proposed and approved by the Curriculum Committee and questioned whether it is realistic to think the changes can be implemented by the fall semester. **Brown** replied that it is aspirational.

4.11 **Silver** questioned whether the presenters will report back to Faculty Senate with responses to the questions raised in this session. **Brown** noted that he could report back when the next draft of the proposal is complete.

4.12 **Peterson** questioned whether the committee evaluated, or considered, the increase in workload the proposal will have on faculty and chairs. **Novotny** replied that will be addressed in the next steps of the process.

5. Approval of Minutes

Flora questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 10/21/19 meeting.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

6. Informational Items

6.1 College Elections – Dr. McGarry / Dr. Epps

No report.

6.2 Handbook Committee update – Dr. Epps

No report.

6.3 Board of Trustees report – Dr. Foley

No report. The next meeting will be held on November 15 in the Millennium Center.

6.4 Faculty Sub Council Collaborative report – Mr. Hemphill

No report.

6.5 Working Groups Report – Work Group Chair



DISCUSSIONS

6.5.1 Administrative Review – Kason O’Neil

The group has nearly completed a survey for faculty that will look at the administrative process of evaluation.

6.5.2 Shared Governance – Renee Lyons

A survey should be complete by October 15.

6.5.3 Campus Communication – Bill Garris

Currently putting together a survey to administer to all faculty. The survey will first be piloted in Faculty Senate and feedback will be incorporated. The survey should be presented to the Senate in November.

6.5.4 Faculty Safety and Planning – Jennifer Pealer

The committee is still deciding who will be chair. The committee is looking at various issues happening across campus such as ETSU SAFE.

7. Action Items

7.1 Committee on Committees – Dr. Epps

No report.

8. New Business

8.1 Motion (Information): The Faculty Senate Constitution be amended to include only the current Preamble and Articles I, II, and VII

Flora noted that the preamble and articles I, II, and VII are the pieces of the constitution that institutionalize the Faculty Senate. The by-laws and constitution are closely linked, when changes are made to the by-laws constitutional changes are also required. This is problematic because changes to the constitution are required to be approved by all faculty and this produced as unwanted burden on faculty. **Epps** added that often times very few votes are received when all faculty are polled.

8.2 Flora announced that the President sent out information about the racist flyers placed on campus and, afterward, a faculty member emailed him with concerns about faculty and student welfare. He wanted to emphasize that we should be educated about the incident, and similar incidents, and be prepared to discuss it with students if they ask about it.

8.3 **Silver** noted that there is a new policy out for public comment that has to do with definition of faculty and the types of faculty appointments. The comment period closes November 17 and Silver wondered if we should ask for an extension so that there is adequate time to review the document. **Epps** replied she has previously edited the document and its primary purpose is to separate policy and procedure. **Byington** noted that there are two phrases about clinical and research faculty’s funding that may be confusing [**Alexander** later responded that she thought the verbiage should remain because it may dictate workload and percent effort in different areas]. **Peterson** added that he thinks the review and commenting period is too short and questioned whether a two week period is the standard amount of time given to comment on such policies proposals, and if the faculty senate should propose a standard amount of time for public comment. **Epps** replied that Ashley Leonard is now coordinating documents that go out for public comment and there should be more consistency and it is believed that the standard review period will be two weeks. **Hendrix** added that the Policy on Policies prescribes a 14 day response.

9. Old Business

None.



DISCUSSIONS

10. Comments from Guests

11. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Brown

Second: Hendrix

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.