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3-26-2018

2018 March 26 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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Faculty Senate Agenda

March 26, 2018

2:45 p.m. Forum

1. Introductions
2. Celebrations
3. Announcements
 - a. SGA debates
 - i. Wed, March 28 @6:00 p.m. Ballroom
 - ii. Thurs, April 5 @7:00 p.m. East TN Room
 - b. ETSU Remembers service – Monday, April 2@4:30 p.m. Culp Auditorium
4. Approval of minutes
5. Information item(s)
 - a. Board of Trustees report – Alsop
6. Action Item(s)
 - a. Committee on Committees-Foley
 - b. **Motion** (submitted by McGarry): I move that the Senate issue a letter of concern on the model of the letter attached. **Rationale:** The dissolution of the Classroom Utilization Committee is troubling because it is now unclear how faculty will influence control of classroom space, and on a more general level, the process whereby it was dissolved indicates a disturbing lack of transparency and disregard of shared governance principles. A response on our part is called for to show that these principles are important to us.
7. New Business
8. Old Business
9. Questions on summaries
10. Comments from guests
11. Adjourn
- 12. Working groups convene as needed**

Next meeting: April 9, 2018

*"In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different
kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours."*

~Mark Twain



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	03/26/2018	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Culp Center, Room 311
Next Meeting:	04/09/2018	Scribe:			Eric Sellers
Present:	Al-Imad, Leila; Alsop, Fred; Brown, Patrick; Burgess, Doug; Byington, Randy; Campbell, Heidi; Cluck, David; Doran, Erin; Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Dorothy; Dunn, Andrew; Ellis, Jon; Epps, Susan; Flora, Bill; Gentry, Retha; Gray, Jeff; Hall, Katherine; Hemphill, Bill; Hendrix, Stephen; Liu, Ying; Mackara, Fred; Marek, Greta; Masino, Anthony; McGarry, Theresa; Mitchell, Lorianne; Mullins, Chrissy; O'Neil, Kason; Oh, Sunny; Olson, Nate; Panus, Peter; Paul, Timir; Peterson, Jonathan; Ramsey, Priscilla; Sarkodie, Olga; Sawyer, Robert; Scheuerman, Eugene; Sellers, Eric; Sergiadis, Ashley; Short, Candice; Stone, Bill; Walden, Rachel				
Absent:	Anand, Rajani; Chakraborty, Kaniska; Kostrzewa, Richard; Pope, Victoria;				
Excused:	Brooks Taylor, Teresa; Duncan, Joyce; Elangovan, Saravanan; Foley, Virginia; Littleton, Mary Ann; Livingston, James; Owens, Bea; Pealer, Jennifer				

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order

1. Introductions

2. Celebrations

3. Announcements

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Informational Items

6. Action Items

7. New Business

8. Old Business

9. Questions on reports/summaries from committees/working groups

10. Other Items

11. Comments from Guests

12. Adjourn

DISCUSSIONS

1. Introductions

Andrew Worley from staff senate and Kason O'Neil. Kason is filling in for Cindy Chambers.

2. Celebrations

Alsop reported that he was awarded a grant from PBS to film birds in Appalachia.

3. Announcements

3.1 SGA debates will be held on Wed, March 28 @6:00 p.m. in the Culp Ballroom and Thurs, April 5 @7:00 p.m. in the East TN Room.

3.1.1 **Epps** reported that there are two candidates for President and Vice President. There is one candidate



DISCUSSIONS

for budget and finance.

3.2 ETSU Remembers service – Monday, April 2@4:30 p.m. Culp Auditorium

Epps stated that is a short and powerful service honoring those who have passed throughout the year.

4. Approval of Minutes

Epps questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 3/12/2018 meeting.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

5. Informational Items

5.1 Board of Trustees report – Alsop

There is no report. The next meeting is on April 27 and is the last meeting of the year.

6. Action Items

6.1 Committee on Committees-Foley

None

6.2 Motion Submitted by McGarry:

Motion: I move that the Senate issue a letter of concern on the model of the letter attached.

Rationale: The dissolution of the Classroom Utilization Committee is troubling because it is now unclear how faculty will influence control of classroom space, and on a more general level, the process whereby it was dissolved indicates a disturbing lack of transparency and disregard of shared governance principles. A response on our part is called for to show that these principles are important to us.

Second: Trogen

6.2.1 Discussion

6.2.2 **McGarry** explained that minor revisions have been made to the letter based on feedback from the library. McGarry was informed by Ashley that the Technology Access Committee has a completely different charge than the Classroom Utilization Committee, which has not existed since August 2017. There are space issues and there is a serious problem with transparency and openness. The classroom is a critical tool, and the administration does not understand the classroom as well as the people who use classrooms every day. The other comment I received was from someone that use to be on the committee. They resigned in disgust. It was more or less cover for the administration. Faculty input has never been taken seriously. There has been a long standing problem here. That is why I think that this resolution is all that more important. **Peterson** added that his class was moved because another class had priority. The decrease in space will exacerbate this problem and there is a lack of openness. Faculty should have more representation in classroom assignment decisions.

6.2.3 **Brown** stated that while he agrees that transparency and faculty representation are important, he disagrees that the letter is the proper way to go about ensuring representation. The original committee was disbanded because the chair told the provost that it was no longer necessary. Additionally, the president and the provost have both stated that as soon as the existing classroom inventory task force has completed their work then a new committee with faculty representation will be reconstituted. It is an inopportune time to send a letter from the Senate as a whole. Given the respect earned with the administration over the last six years, this may affect the relationship.

6.2.4 **Sawyer and Walden** voiced their support of the letter. **Walden** expressed concerns that library space may be reallocated without consultation and this could affect accreditation and student study space.



DISCUSSIONS

6.2.5 **Gray** questioned whether the letter could be rephrased to be proactive in explaining that if the new committee were to be formed in the manner spoken that they would seek representation from the Senate and/or some other type of body that would represent the body of the faculty. **Flora** seconded the idea that the letter should be more proactive letter and added that the current committee is only inventorying space and will not make decisions as to how space is allocated. **Hendrix** added further support for a more proactive letter.

6.2.6 **McGarry** stated that disbanding the committee was not the appropriate response to the chair's request and more steps should have been taken. **McGarry** further noted that looking forward to the new committee could be added to the letter. **Dunn** noted that chairs serve for a long time and there is a power imbalance, which could be added to the letter. **Epps** added that chairs may serve for a long time because there are not volunteers to replace them.

6.2.7 **Peterson** expressed concern that decisions are being made today about classroom assignment for next semester without faculty input or a formal process. **Flora** noted that this is a different issue from the motion on the floor. **Epps** pointed out that some classrooms do not show up on Schedule 25, which was part of the reason why the working group was put into place.

6.2.8 **Hendrix** questioned the leadership at the committee level because the chair suggested disbanding the committee. Thus, the provost cannot necessarily be faulted for disbanding the committee, and they have reassured us a new committee will be formed. **Brown** added that Dr. Noland has never lied to him and the letter is, in effect, suggesting that he, or the administration, is not going to do what they have said they are going to do. The current language in the letter has some confrontational wording and he does not want to sit in the room with Dr. Noland if we suggest that he is being dishonest. **McGarry** added that she does not believe the letter says that we think he is lying and she would sit across from him and defend the letter. The concern expressed by Brown is how the administration looks favorably at the faculty, but the larger concern is how fellow faculty will look upon the Senate.

6.2.9 In order to be informed as to how to vote, **Peterson** asked who currently decides how classroom space is allocated. No one in the meeting could answer the question. **Thus, Peterson motioned to postpone the vote until such time that the senate is made aware of who currently decides how classroom space is allocated; Mackara seconded the motion.**

6.2.9.1 Additional discussion ensued and **Brown motioned to amend the motion on the floor to postpone the vote until the next full meeting of the senate; the motion was seconded by Flora. The motion passed. The following people voted nay on the motion: Stone, Trogen, McGarry, Sawyer, and Byington. Epps** volunteered to be responsible for obtaining additional information.

7. New Business

7.1 **Masino** indicated that ETSU's legal office is causing unnecessary litigation and multiple people have complained to him. He suggested that we reopen discussions to acquire an ombudsman to ensure that faculty and staff are being treated in an unbiased and fair manner. **Burgess** explained that the ombudsman would serve under Dr. Noland and ETSU legal. The office is for concerns and has a specific code of ethics and can only deal with certain matters. An ombudsman will not necessarily deal with complaints. **Masino** replied that, at a lot of universities, the ombudsman does get involved when a grievance or complaint is filed.

7.1.2 **Flora** noted that having an ombudsman has come up several times in the recent years and President Noland has indicated that the issue will be revisited after the HR review is complete and we should continue to ask about it. **Masino** added that when ETSU was part of TBR there were checks and balances in place. Now that we are governed by the BOT, the same oversight does not exist. **Alsop** stated that the board is still learning and this is a policy that has not been addressed by the full board. More importantly, is how the issue will come to the board. We have been asked to provide a budget for the position, which has now been done. A strong voice needs to come from faculty and the administration should find the money to fund the position. **Ellis** added that if we had such a position, the committee that addressed the Champouillon case would not have been necessary because the issue would have been dealt with years ago. Moreover, the committee, and the attorneys, took their job very seriously and the experience with the administration was a good one.



DISCUSSIONS

7.2 **Flora** shared that the Academic Integrity Policy was discussed at Academic Council. The way it was written, if a professor left the university for summer break during an appeal, the student would be required to wait until the professor returned in the fall semester to resolve the case. The committee that previously reviewed the policy was reconvened and there is now a revised policy that has been streamlined and is very clear. Epps will send the policy and anyone who has questions or comments should forward them to Flora by April 5. **Epps** added that student readability should be kept in mind when reviewing the policy.

8. Old Business

8.1 **Epps** noted that the Senate meetings will be held in Building 60 of the VA campus beginning next Fall.

9. Questions on reports/summaries from committees/working groups

9.1 **McGarry** asked about Senate Bill 2180, and whether course materials will be placed on a protected website. **Epps** replied that she has already asked Bridget Baird and is awaiting a response.

10. Other Items

None.

11. Comments from Guests

None.

12. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Peterson
Second: Hendrix
Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Senator Eric Sellers (sellers@etsu.edu or 9-4476, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2017-2018) of any changes or corrections to the minutes.