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Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes

Agendas and Minutes

4-24-2017

2017 April 24 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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Faculty Senate Agenda

April 24, 2017

2:45 p.m. Forum

1. Introductions
2. Celebrations
3. Announcements
4. Approval of minutes
5. New Business
 - a. Elections- Elections Committee (Brown, Hendrix, Epps)
 - i. VP
 - ii. Secretary
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Chief Operating Officer
6. Action Item(s)
 - a. Motion (by McDowell) regarding a resolution against outsourcing: *We do not support out-sourcing facility management at ETSU. We value these members of the ETSU community, and oppose efforts to remove them from the ETSU payroll and benefits program.*
 - b. Committee on Committees-Foley
7. Information item
 - a. Dr. Bishop- Q/A
 - b. TUFS Update - Byington
8. Questions on reports/summaries from committees/working groups
9. Comments from guests
10. Adjourn

Next meeting: August 22, 2017 – Retreat! Carnegie Hotel

“The...patient should be made to understand that he or she must take charge of his or her own life. Don't take your body to the doctor as he were a repair shop.”

~Quentin Regestein



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	4/24/2017	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Culp Center, Room 311
Next Meeting:		Scribe:			Eric Sellers
Present:	Patrick Brown, Randy Byington, Heidi Campbell, Kaniska Chakraborty, Cindy Chambers, Erin Doran, Wendy Doucette, Dorothy Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Joyce Duncan, Susan Epps, Lon Felker, Bill Flora, Virginia Foley, Retha Gentry, Jeff Gray, Bill Hemphill, Stephen Hendrix, Karin Keith, Thomas Kwasigroch, Guangya Li, James Livingston, Anthony Masino, Tim McDowell, Theresa McGarry, Shunbin Ning, Bea Owens, Peter Panus, Melissa Shafer, Candice Short, Bill Stone, Paul Trogen, Liang Wang, Rachel Walden, Ahmad Wattad				
Absent:	Fred Alsop, Leila Al-Imad, Doug Burgess, David Champouillon, Fred Mackara, Lorianne Mitchell, Chrissy Mullins, Timir Paul, Eugene Scheuerman, Darshan Shah				
Excused:	David Cluck, Saravanan Elangovan, Jon Ellis, Lee Glenn, Katherine Hall, Tod Jablonski, Mary Ann Littleton, Mildred Maisonet, Jonathan Peterson, Eric Sellers, Craig Turner				

Agenda Items	Responsible
Meeting called to order	Epps
1 Introductions	Epps
2 Celebrations	Epps
3 Announcements	Epps
4 Approval of Minutes	Epps
5 New Business	Epps
6 Action Item(s)	Epps
7 Information Item(s)	Epps
8 Questions or Reports/Summaries from Committees/Working Groups	Epps
9 Comments from Guests	
10 Adjourn	Epps

DISCUSSIONS

Meeting called to order 14:45

1 Introductions

Stephanie Murphy, the president of Staff Senate, will be joining the meeting.

2 Celebrations

Epps: The Night of Champions is an event held by the Athletic Department for student athletes. Next year, they would like to have athletes invite faculty to the event. If you receive an invitation please try to attend the event.

Epps: We have a Super Hero award for Jonathon Peterson. He asked a question of Dr. Noland as to why he did not attend the Appalachian Student Research Forum (ASRF). Dr. Noland explained that he had gone to the Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium two-weeks prior; he had a schedule conflict during ASRF. Jonathon suggested one research conference each semester instead of both in the same semester.

3 Announcements

Epps: Some colleges have not held elections for next year. If you are in one of these colleges please remind your Dean to have an elections as soon as possible. It is necessary to inform new senate members of the retreat in August.



DISCUSSIONS

Epps: Paul Trogen has an update in regard to the new Sherrod Room at the library.
 Trogen: The room is very high-tech and can be arranged to suit your needs. The room includes six big screens that can be accessed using laptops, iPads, or smartphones. There are ports for Ethernet and wireless connections. There are also microphones that hang from the ceiling that can be used to record meetings. Starting in the Fall, you can contact Sherrod309@etsu.edu to reserve the room.
 Doucette: In addition, for whomever uses the room an attendant will be present to help.
 Epps: The retreat is August 22 at the Carnegie. It is the last meeting of this academic year and the first meeting of next year. The meeting will start at 9 AM, lunch will be provided, and the meeting should last until approximately 3 PM.

4 Approval of Minutes
Motion to Approve: Panus
Second: Hemphill
Minutes Approved

5 New Business
 5.1 Elections – Election Committee (Brown, Hendrix, Epps)
 5.1.1 VP – Foley nominated Bill Flora. Byington motioned to vote by acclamation. All in favor.
 5.1.2 Secretary – Foley nominated Eric Sellers. Byington motioned to vote by acclamation. All in favor.
 5.1.3 Treasurers – Flora nominated Cindy Chambers. Flora motioned to vote by acclamation. All in favor.
 5.1.4 Chief Operating Officer – Flora nominated Patrick Brown. Flora motioned to vote by acclamation. All in favor.

6 Action Item(s)
 6.1 - Motion (by McDowell) regarding a resolution against outsourcing: **We do not support out-sourcing facility management at ETSU. We value these members of the ETSU community, and oppose efforts to remove them from the ETSU payroll and benefits program.**
Second: Trogen.
 Discussion
 Brown: Is there anything underway to make the facility management outsourced?
 Epps: No
 Al-Imad- I think it is good to have a back up plan in place.
 Byington- Who are we trying to influence? Is this directed to our administration or our incoming board?
 Stephanie Murphy: We appreciate your support; however, at this time Staff Senate is not doing anything with this because the president has made it clear 29 times that there will be no outsourcing of these positions. Activities that are currently outsourced will continue to be outsourced. The motion appears to be written as we are opposing or not backing what the president is saying. Even if this was going to the board, the president is still the one that deals with the day to day operation.
 Beverly Smith: Governor Haslam has suggested outsourcing to all public universities and he has lined up a company to do this. The governing board of the university will be given the option of whether to outsource. President Noland has told Faculty Senate we will not be outsourcing. However, the final rests with the governing board and one member of the board has gone on record as being in favor of outsourcing. The justification for the Faculty Senate resolution is to provide guidance to board and support Dr. Noland.
Foley: I would like to move that we table this until Staff Senate feels that it should be brought forward.
Second: Mackara.
In favor: 16
Opposed: 15
Motion passed
 Stone: I think the motion requires a 2/3 vote in order to terminate a vote.
 Brown: It is not terminating. It is being tabled.
 Stone: Motioning to table is a cheap trick.
 Flora: robertsrulesoforderonline.com, section 5, paragraph 6 indicates that an item can be tabled by a simple majority; however, if tabling is used to end a discussion the body can require a 2/3 majority vote. So a simple majority would hold.
 Stone: Section 17 states that in order to grant a table the event has to be of immediate urgency. What we really need is a motion to postpone indefinitely.
 Flora: Tabling is with the requirement that the item will be discussed in the next meeting; or, in this case, when Staff Senate decided to act.



DISCUSSIONS

Stone: To quote “when something else of immediate urgency has arisen” is how a motion to table should be used. According to the website, this is the most abused motion in Robert’s Rules of Order because it ends debate of the minority and the purpose of the rules is to protect the right of the minority to continue discussion.

Flora: I respect that completely. I encourage you to look at the official Robert’s Rules site. A lot of different Robert’s Rules websites exist.

Byington: I motion to take it off the table.

Al-Imad: second

Discussion

McGarry: It is not fair to take the motion off of the table without Stephanie and Beverly being present.

Brown: So you would vote against the motion to take it off of the table?

In favor: 13

Opposed: 18

Epps: The motion will remained tabled until Staff Senate takes further action on outsourcing at the university.

7 Information Item(s)

7.1 Dr. Bishop – Q/A

Epps: Dr. Bishop is unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment. She has answered all of our questions in an email, which will be forwarded after the meeting today.

7.2 TUFS Update – Byington

The main reason TUFS is around is to share information. One of the ways it has benefited us was with tenure and promotion. We found out that Memphis had their promotions set at 6%, 8%, and 10%. Because of this, TBR would be required to approve the same T&P rates for ETSU. We knew TBR could not turn this down for us. The sharing of information among public universities is a vital part to us. We feel that advocacy should be a new goal. In order to do so it will be necessary to change the by-laws and a committee has been formed to determine necessary changes.

Hemphill: Does that mean actively visiting the legislature?

Byington: Yes. The second thing we want to do is have a clear line of communication with AAUP.

We are changing to more of an advocacy role because many legislative agenda items are being proposed by people outside of the state of TN (e.g., foundations, special interest groups). We feel like it is a time for people in higher education to be heard in a non confrontational way. An example is the free speech legislation that is being proposed by an out of state organization. This legislation would prevent those with a conservative viewpoint from speaking freely in universities. The UT lobbyist were able to considerable influence the bill and if it does pass it will be much weaker than it would have been otherwise.

Another bill about UT audits has been sent to summer study. There is a movement to have legislators sit on the audit committee for public higher education institutions. If legislatures are on the audit committee they may influence curricula. SACS is very specific that curriculum issues are addressed by faculty. However, if you are unaccredited and SACS determines this overreaches and faculty no longer have control over the curriculum and you lose your SACS accreditation. For students to receive federal financial aid, the university must either be accredited by a regional crediting agency or the US Department of Education. This is a very serious thing and could have some long range implications. For example, it may mean that students will be unable to get financial aid to attend a public university. To counter this initiative a committee is drafting an amendment to limit legislature participation to financial matters and not curriculum.

TTU enrollment is down due to an increase in admission standards. TTU is contemplating a vote of no confidence in the provost.

UTC had a faculty handbook presented to them by general counsel of the UT system. Faculty are not happy about the process because their bylaws state that handbook changes must go to the faculty for a vote.

The fall TUFS meeting will be at UTK on the 15-17th of September. ETSU may host the spring meeting.

Drinkard-Hawkshawe: What provoked the decision to increase admissions standards at TTU?

Byington: I am not sure. The faculty perception was that they picked the worst time to increase the admission standard.

Panus: How will ETSU be affected by not being in the TBR?

Byington: THEC is struggling with directly dealing with faculty

Panus: Is our position in TUFS going to be weakened?

Byington- No. The TUFS president has always rotated between the UT and TBR systems. Participation and having a good president are very important.



DISCUSSIONS

7.3 Hemphill

Tristan Denley is stepping down and going to University of Georgia system.

The Faculty Senate president at Northeast State is up for tenure. She has been serving for three years as an untenured president. Their faculty is in that position where it is at the end of the semester and there may be retaliation. We might come with a letter of support.

The guns for students has been voted down.

The \$9.8-million-dollar security update that TBR has requested is probably not going to happen. They wanted to make sure that ETSU along with the other five local-governing-board universities were all staying in TN E-campus except for the masters of science in nursing.

8 Questions or Reports/Summaries from Committees/Working Groups

Panus: Will you continue sending out the meeting minutes over the summer?

Epps: Yes. The executive committee meets with Dr. Noland and Dr. Bach over the summer. If you have any questions over the summer, email me and I will ask them at the meetings. The retreat on August 22, 2017 is the last of this year and the first meeting of next year.

McGarry: In the college of arts and sciences, we are having trouble with access to voting for senators.

Foley: College of education sends out a memo and there is a period of time open for nominations. Then we close the nominations and send out the ballot through email.

McGarry: In CAS we have been having issues with access to voting for faculty senators. For example, people who teach during the College meeting are not able to vote. An email was sent to Dr. Anderson asking how this can be addressed and whether it should be addressed by the College or the Faculty Senate.

Foley: COE sends out an email stating how many seats need to be filled and then there is a period of nomination. When this period ends, the ballot goes out by email so people can vote.

Epps: According to the bylaws, the representatives from each college are the election officials. The representatives from CAS could meet with Dr. Anderson and let him know they will take care of the election.

McDowell: Last year the college meeting conflicted with a Faculty Senate meeting and Dr. Anderson was not willing to accommodate people who could not attend. For the last two years our college has not filled its allotted senators. This reflects a disinterest on the part of the dean.

Epps: I think it was an accident that it conflicted because of scheduling. There are a number of colleges that are doing it other ways so it is certainly feasible.

9 Comments from Guests

None.

10 Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Brown

Second: Tom

Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Senator Eric Sellers (sellers@etsu.edu or 9-4476, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2015-2017) of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or x96691).