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2013 September 9 - Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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**2013-2014 Faculty Senate
MINUTES—September 9, 2013**

Faculty Senate—East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING:	FOLLOWING MEETING:
September 16, 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center	October 7, 2:45 p.m. Forum, Culp Center

Present: Beth Baily, Katie Baker, Robert Beeler, Jim Bitter, Sally Blowers, Patrick Brown, Doug Burgess, Randy Byington, Kathy Campbell, Daryl Carter, Bruce Dalton, Susan Epps, Virginia Foley, Allan Forsman, Rosalind Gann, Nick Hagemeyer, Evelyn Hammonds, Tammy Hayes, Jill Hayter, Ken Kellogg, Tom Laughlin, Kurt Loess, Lorianne Mitchell, Jerome Mwinyelle, Kerry Proctor-Williams, Thomas Schacht, Melissa Shafer, Taylor Stevenson, Bill Stone, Kim Summey, Paul Trogen, Jennifer Vanover-Hall, Shimin Zheng, Yue Zou.

Excused: Sharon Campbell, Ron Hamdy, April Stidham, Teresa Wexler,
Guests: Marla Hayman, Amy Johnson

CALL TO ORDER: President Byington called the meeting to order at 2:45p.m.

President Byington announced that Marla Hammond from Human Resources will be observing Faculty Senate this semester. Also Amy Johnson, Director of the QEP, will be sitting in on some of the meetings to understand what faculty face across the broader university.

President Byington stated that ETSU is offering two courses this fall in a MOOC environment. He introduced Karen King and Daryl Carter who are here to report on this initiative. Vice Provost and Director of Academic Technology Support Dr. Karen King began by stating that they have been working all summer on two courses to be delivered in an open format. She said that they are not calling these MOOCs; they are calling it Open Bucs. They wanted courses they thought would be attractive to students and that had faculty who were interested in participating. They wanted something that would maybe help students progress toward graduation and help students reduce the total cost of education. This fall ETSU is piloting two courses, History 2020, and Intro to Music 1030 which start next Monday and will run for 8 weeks. Students will have the opportunity to obtain an optional path to credit by purchasing a \$150 pre-credit assessment package developed by the same faculty members who developed the course and who teach the regular section of that history or music course. It is that path to credit that makes it a little unique. It's not really a MOOC, although it is an open course. Anybody can register who wants to. Currently there are 60 in History right now and 45 or so in Music.

Director King continued that one of the things that they put together was an audio visual production team for these courses. The faculty members were the content experts and worked with instructional and audio visual production designers all through the summer.

Senator Carter added that he wanted to make it very clear that faculty are in charge of the classes and the grades. The teams that were constructed for audio/visual are simply there for tech support as opposed to anything academic. Moreover, ETSU is paying the faculty for their time and their departments have been made aware of it. They're getting paid not only to build the courses, but as they transition into the path to credit, they'll be paid a certain amount per student on top of what they have already received for building the course. This is a great idea in terms of lowering costs for students. It is a great idea in terms of keeping ETSU on a front edge of online education. And it is a great way for faculty to earn extra money and diversify their teaching skills. Senator Carter added that payment to the faculty members is coming from the office of E-Learning. Academic departments are not sacrificing to do this.

Director King stated that students pay a \$150 pre-credit assessment and \$150 for the credit course. So they'll pay a total of \$300 for the course as opposed to about \$1000. If they just want to take the course for free and get a certificate that is fine. It is only if they want to move to credit that they're going to have to pay those fees. Out of that first \$175 the faculty member gets \$75. The department will get 30% of the next \$55, then the University gets 20% of that and the office of E-Learning gets 50% of that.

Director King stated that they are not marketing specifically in this area and are trying to focus on Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, and other places in Tennessee. When she looked at the history course enrollment only 3 or 4 students out of 60 were from ETSU.

President Byington asked what plans are for spring. Director King replied that there might be an opportunity to put the history course into Coursera for the spring. The other thing that is going on is Math is building an online certificate program. They would like to put one course out there as an open course to attract enrollments for their certificate. They are working on that during this semester hopefully to put it up in the spring.

Senator Foley asked how the courses being evaluated to determine if this successful. Senator Carter responded that numbers will certainly play a part, customer satisfaction and attracting students to the University - particularly from Eastern Tennessee, Western North Carolina, and Southwestern Virginia to come here and become students over time.

Senator Kellogg asked is there a particular point at which the student has to decide if they want to go for the credit options. Director King replied that they can go through the entire 8 week course and at the end they can say 'Yes, I want to try for credit'. If they want to do that, that involves those two additional steps, the pre-credit assessment package and registering for the ETSU course. One of the things she thinks is so valuable is potential students don't know if they're going to be very successful in college. This is a chance for them to try a course without being \$1000 in debt and having an F on their transcript. Some students may need to go through course content more than one time to get ready or to get prepared. This could be helpful in a number of ways.

Senator Carter added that students have a year to enroll in the actual ETSU course. So the student won't have to decide on day 1, nor will they have to decide at the end of the course. They're going to have some time to make that decision based on their experience and what is in their own best interest.

Senator Loess asked why an ETSU student would prefer to pay \$1000 over \$300. Director King replied that there are a lot of factors. One is financial aid. If a student drops below 12 hours, they're not a full-time student anymore. An Open Bucs course is a 3 hour credit, but the student has to wait until the course is over before they can add it. It messes up some financial aid for students. She said that they try to warn them about that.

Senator Loess wondered what if Open Bucs catches on according to the success criteria and courses are replaced with this option. Director King said that as hard as it was to get these two courses finished this summer, she doesn't anticipate that her team would be able to keep up the pace for that to happen for a very long time. Senator Carter added that this is just another way to offer educational delivery to our students. Karen is absolutely right. Because of that factor, they don't anticipate ten thousand students. Nor do they see our students dropping out of regular courses in mass to do this.

Senator Bitter stated that his concern is that you can take a perfectly good classroom teacher and put them into an online environment and all of a sudden they feel like its something they don't have to pay much attention to except every now and then. He asked will there be anyone to monitor what people are doing online as professors. Director King replied that is one of the things that they are talking about this year. There is an eLearning liaison from every college and one of the things that they is have oversight on how these courses are reviewed. She continued that they have hired a temporary course coordinator who will monitor these courses throughout the 8 weeks that they are running to ensure that somebody is paying attention to the course and the students all the time.

Senator Epps commented that as an online instructor, she is engaged in her classes and online students every day. There is a difference in watching lectures and taking a test at the end and actually being engaged on a regular basis. If you've got 1000 students enrolled it is not feasible to expect that same level of engagement. What is being described is that the instructor is in charge of the content but it is not the instructor who is in the course making sure the students don't have questions. Director King replied that the course coordinator's job is to go into the course and check, and when there are questions, they are going to send them to the right person. Senator Carter added that the person that we have hired is a two-time graduate of ETSU who is well acquainted and familiar with course material. If students are just not getting something, the professors in question will be made aware of that by the course monitor. Director King stated that the faculty will have to be in charge of the content. This person is just to direct the questions or issues that arise to the appropriate person and try and make it easier for faculty members to handle the load.

Senator Gann related that she was actually fascinated by the concept of MOOCS and enrolled in one. Her impression of it was, it's a lot like a big library and you can learn almost anything you want and not have to pay for it. It doesn't seem like taking a course. It seems like going to a library and having a directed instructional package. They do anticipate some of your questions and your homework is evaluated by computer. She thinks it's a great thing - just like libraries are wonderful. Her question is where does this fit in the whole picture of higher education? Director King replied that she didn't know. Nobody really knows what exactly is going to happen. The truth is, higher education is changing quickly and we can't just stick our heads in the sand and hope it doesn't happen to us.

Senator Bitter commented that the model described is a testing out model. You are essentially talking about nothing different than testing out of a course and are in fact setting up a system by which that happens. You get credit for essentially passing a test.

Director King stated that they are trying a couple of pilots to see if it works and if they have the process worked out. If it doesn't work well and the feedback is bad, then they won't do it again. If the faculty hate it, they won't do it again. It's a pilot project. She doesn't know where MOOCS are going to fit in higher education. There is something new about it every day.

Senator Laughlin asked how the fee structure works for out-of-state students. Director King answered that it is the same for everyone as the pre-credit assessment is going to be paid through the Touchnet system and not paid through tuition and fees.

Senator Schacht stated that he expects that MOOCS are being driven by economic forces. He hopes that as the program is being evaluated that we will look not just at the things that we want to have as outcomes, but that we'll also keep an eye open for the unintended consequences. Senator Carter replied that he thinks they are doing that. ETSU is the only institution in the state that is doing its own program according to its own needs that hasn't had the governor's office impose something on it. The Open Bucs program is our program.

Senator Gann said that education is a human process and she does value libraries. But she doesn't think you can substitute a library for a quality education. Senator Carter stated that he can appreciate that point of view. This is a pilot where they're trying in the best way they know how to take those factors into consideration.

Director King said the plan is to do these two courses for 8 weeks in the fall and then look at it at the end. They will ask the faculty about their experience, ask the students about their experience, and they will see what kind of attrition rate there is. Her office will take the administrative function of that assessment.

Senator Kellogg prefaced his question by stating that he is coming from an engineering point of view. He said that he is teaching a Vector Mechanics class. When a student calls on the phone and says 'I don't understand how to do this problem' it is near nigh-impossible to explain 3-D Vector Mechanics over the phone. He asked what they have found as appropriate models of exposure if the student has a question. Director King replied that with this kind of model the

content is directed by the faculty but the discussion items and the interaction is student to student, there will be some student to instructor as well with the course coordinator and with the faculty members who have developed the course. She said she didn't want this to come out the wrong way, but we're talking about History. It is not Vector Mechanics.

Senator Carter added that is why they are sticking to Gen Ed courses and not upper division courses.

Senator Bitter commented that he agreed we should experiment and see what happens. But, if he were to take a MOOC he would be interested in Brian Green's MOOC on the universe.

Senator Bitter suggested taking the best teachers and best researchers we have and putting them online. What would make this ultimately useful is people who are really good at delivering upper level material who make it fascinating and interesting and who are in equivalence to the Brian Greens out there.

Senator Bitter continued that none of the major Ivy League colleges have Appalachian Music or Appalachian Studies or those kinds of things that are unique to us. We should put out the stuff that is unique to us that we've already demonstrated a huge expertise in. Senator Carter said that there is some brainstorming going on in the administration about doing that with popular professors on a much different format than what we have with Open Bucs. That topic has come up.

Senator Beeler Asked with regard to the Gen Ed courses, why not just enroll in a traditional online course? Director King said that MOOCS are built a little bit different and delivered a little bit differently. It is heavily video lecture based and it's an online opportunity for students to do it for a reduced price. We have a lot of students in this region who graduate from high school and never think they have the possibility to go to college. They don't think they're prepared. They went to a small rural high school and they're not sure of their capabilities. It is a good chance for some people to kind of test the waters with us and see how they can do.

Senator Schacht said that he would like to build on Senator Bitter's comments. Years ago when he came to this institution, the chairman of Family Medicine said we'll never compete with Harvard's Medical School, but we can be the Harvard of Primary Care. He was absolutely right. We are head and shoulders above Harvard in Primary Care. We're top ranked nationally in that area. We're not Harvard Medical School overall, but in that niche we've got them. We've got other niches and should exploit them.

Senator Dalton asked if Dr. King would be willing to come back for a follow up session. Director King replied she could come back at the end of the semester. The courses are going to end on November the 15th. President Byington stated that we will probably schedule it for the beginning of the spring semester.

President Byington thanked Karen King and Daryl Carter and moved onto the next agenda item - the senior staff report. A lot of the senior staff topics are related to construction issues across campus. They're getting ready to sod the center part of the quad. On the parking garage, the critical pathway to completing the parking garage centers on the elevators. Once

they have a dry elevator shaft, then seven weeks later the fire marshal or building inspector will give a Certificate of Authenticity.

The question was raised about asking how parking in the new garage will work. President Byington replied that it is a student parking garage paid for with student fees. The students voted to increase their parking fee by \$25 so it is a dedicated student parking garage.

Senator Bitter said on a different topic, it seems that students by the fact of their fee are paying \$250 a year for a season ticket to the football games. Why would we be selling season tickets to anyone else for less than we are selling them to the students? President Byington replied that he doesn't know if the season ticket fee that has been set yet or not. In the online newspapers there are ads for individual game tickets for UT at \$80 a ticket. For the first time there is the ability for the general public to buy an ETSU season basketball ticket without making a donation to the BASA fund. That's an effort to provide affordable entertainment for somebody with 2 or 3 kids to come to a basketball game and have a good time with their family.

President Byington stated that Brown Hall's air conditioning is about finished. The new addresses for buildings were done for two reasons. One was e911 and the second was to clarify some confusion over some duplicate street names. There are 7 chair searches that are going forward at this point in time. There are about 30 positions that so far have been approved for hiring.

Senator Bitter asked if most of those are administrators. President Byington replied that he didn't know but he would ask. He continued that there is concern that the department that probably has the highest turnover on campus is the housekeeping and environmental services janitorial area. There is concern about balancing the need to save money with balancing the need to have reasonable service. There is a lot of discussion around that.

President Byington said that the College of Medicine is in competing proposals for a presence in Abingdon. If ETSU's proposal were to be accepted by Abingdon's panel of Washington County board supervisors and town council, ETSU would be putting a branch of the College Of Medicine there with somewhere in the range of 20 students. The competing proposal is from Edward Via which is a for profit medical school. Edward Via is talking about adding 250 medical students and building a 25 million dollar addition to Johnston Memorial Hospital as part of the proposal. If either of the two proposals are chosen, the Virginia's Tobacco commission has committed funds toward the construction of a building to support it. If ETSU were to be awarded the proposal, our first entering class would be the class of 2015.

Senator Bitter asked if we are awarded the proposals is the theory that we are admitting students from everywhere into that particular location or we're admitting people from Southwest Virginia. President Byington stated that he didn't know the answer. One of the things in ETSU's proposal is to partner with Emory and Henry on a substantial amount of things. As an example, we would probably help Emory and Henry start a Pre-Med curriculum.

President Byington continued that there are initial discussions regarding the Multicultural Center. It would go into the space currently occupied by the Welcome Center which would be moving over to the parking garage. They completed some upgrades to air conditioning in the residence halls. Wireless access in some of the older residence halls is extremely difficult on account of the thicker walls. They are in the process of finishing up the last of the residence halls with wireless access.

Housing is currently at a 94.3% occupancy. It is anticipated that will drop to about 93%. There will be 500 new apartments that will be built and 100 new called luxury apartments in what is referred to as the coal yard. Housing for ETSU students is a pretty hot market right now. Senator Morgan asked if all those apartments operate under ETSU housing rules. President Byington replied that they are private housing owned by private corporations and are outside of ETSU rules. Another information point on housing is that fraternities are struggling to fill their houses. Students prefer apartment living rather than frat house living.

President Byington announced that the Alumni Return to the Classroom is being looked at something that could be done more on a year long basis for multiple reasons. One of which is there are some outstanding Alumni that would love to come back to ETSU and participate that it doesn't fit their schedules. Senator Gann responded that there is nothing to prevent Alumni from visiting at any time. She expressed concern that the Alumni Return to the Classroom stimulates people to go out and ask and is a functioning event. It would be a shame for that effort to be lost.

President Byington reported that the Academic Freedom Policy goes to the TBR for final approval. That is normally a formality. We at ETSU have worked hard to include shared governance as a part of academic freedom and that is now being afforded across the state.

Senator Bitter remarked that it helped the cause tremendously when Tennessee State University arrested the faculty president.

President Byington announced that there is a task force comprised of representatives from the TBR President's Council, Faculty Sub-council, and Academic Officer's Council that is going to look at the process and concept of lecturers. This came from the Ideas Forum last semester. The issue involves whether or not a three year appointment is the correct amount of time or should lecturers be moved to a five year appointment.

Senator Bitter commented that the effort that Senator Schacht started a couple of years ago ought to be renewed - to at least get an aspirational goal established for the ratio of full-time faculty. One of the things that can happen with this is that ETSU can start counting lecturers as tenured track people in which case it looks like we have 85% full time faculty when in fact we don't.

President Byington stated that there is an initiative to look at TBR's policy to award credit for experiential learners. The problem is that if a community college awards a credit and it shows up on the transcript we are bound to recognize that as a transfer course. So TBR is going to

begin to look at what rules should govern that process. The other thing that will be looked at is the impact of the Affordable Care Act on adjunct work.

Athletics has announced the schedule for basketball since the last senior staff meeting. They have the highest number of home games in 30 years. The women's team will remain at the mini-dome. There was discussion that they might move to Brook's Gym but that is not going to happen. There were three men's basketball games that will be played at Freedom Hall and one women's game will be played at Freedom Hall because it is associated with a double header men's and women's teams playing back to back.

Senator Bitter asked if the new athletic director can meet with the senate. President Byington replied yes, it is a matter of scheduling. He is meeting with him on Monday to discuss how to bridge the faculty and athletics gap.

President Byington stated that we had an appointment for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the person that accepted it has a class scheduled at the time of the meeting. That committee needs to meet quickly so that they can begin the curriculum process for the fall semester and get the TBR submissions in on time. He asked for a volunteer to represent faculty senate on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. There were no volunteers so the matter will need to be done via email.

The other agenda item for this afternoon was that the senate's bylaws and constitution have some conflicts. One issue that came up this past summer was President Byington was asked by President Noland's office to provide a list of our officers. The list of officers varies based on the constitution and the bylaws. We need an ad hoc committee to review both documents to see if there are other conflicts. The ad hoc committee will meet on its own and only as long as it takes to resolve this issue. Senator Epps volunteered. Senator Bitter volunteered Senator Burgess. Senator Bailey volunteered.

President Byington asked for other discussion items. There being none the senate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Please notify Senator Melissa Shafer (shaferm@etsu.edu or 9-5837, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2012-2013, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or x96691).