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2010 March 22 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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MINUTES—March 22, 2010

Faculty Senate—East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING:	FOLLOWING MEETING:
April 5, 2010 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center	April 19, 2010 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center

Present: Alsop, Arnall, Bitter, Bartoszuk, Buerkle, Calhoun, Champouillon, Creekmore, Dorgan, Emma, Essin (proxy for Shafer), Fisher, Glover, Granberry, Grover, Hamdy, Harker, Hemphill, Horton, Kaplan, Kellogg, Loess, Martin, Morgan, Mustain, Odle, Peiris, Price, Reed, Roach, Schacht, Slawson, Stone, Trainor, Trogen, Wang, Zhu, Zou

Excused: Bates, Brown, Burgess, Byington, Campbell, Hemphill, Kelley, Kortum, Mullersman, Price, Scott, Shafer, Shuttle, Smurzynski

Absent: Crowe, Ecay, Stuart

Guests: ETSU President Paul E. Stanton, Jr.
Director of Traffic and Parking Mr. Vernon Bradley
Ms. Jennifer Crigger, Director, Auxiliary Services
Dr. Kurt Maier, Associate Professor, Environmental Health

CALL TO ORDER: President Champouillon called the meeting to order at 2:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the March 1, 2010, Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS: **ETSU President Stanton began his remarks by pointing out that never in his 25 years at ETSU had he seen so much fluidity in numbers.** ETSU is down 25% in appropriations before July 2010; Stimulus dollars run out on July 1, 2011. Between now and then the state must prepare for a definite takedown of 6% for junior colleges and 7.5% for universities; yet another 3% may be subtracted. The 7.5% is almost \$4 million. The 3%, \$1.3 million, will be taken if a cable tax does not pass. In addition, although legislators state they believe they appropriated money for bonuses they mandated, the \$2.4 million for them will have to come from ETSU's general funds. In July 2011, we will face another reduction. We will be ready, but how? The question is, How do we put together a budget in times like these? If ETSU's enrollment increases 2%, a tuition increase of 5% will bring in \$3.5 million. A tax increase of from 8 to 8.5% can bridge the gap.

Quillen COM reductions are not so drastic in percentage. A tuition increase of 5% is almost minuscule, however. Grant dollars from TennCare, this year \$8 million (22% of expenses), may be lost. A special fee will cover TennCare dollars for one year. If Quillen loses 22%, it will survive. But good things are happening

also: an NIH grant is providing \$4.3 million to renovate Building 119 on the VA campus and \$2.4 million to renovate Brown Hall on the main campus. The use of these funds is restricted to these renovations.

In response to a question about RIFs, Stanton said he hopes to avoid them; he hopes not to lose anyone. Furloughs are also tricky in that reductions in salary may never be undone. The Budget Reduction Task Force is considering all options. With a tuition increase and no further reductions, we can get by. Contracts may be modified, for example, to reduce 12-month functions to nine months. A rumor that ETSU's libraries faced a 20 to 25% reduction is utterly false, however. Stanton asked that such rumors be brought to him immediately.

Senator Bitter asked what effect Governor Bredesen's bill basing funding on graduation rates rather than on enrollment will have. Also, he asked if the recently passed Health Care Law will affect the use of funds.

Stanton explained that the governor's called education session in January 2010 resulted in the legislature's passing a law that THEC must reconfigure formula funding on the basis of graduation percentages, and report its strategy by April 28-29, 2010; it will be activated in fall 2010. Both TBR and UT have had three meetings to determine their responses. The problem is a lack of time to create a meaningful response.

Dr. Rich Rhoda of THEC indicates the final plan may span four years. There will be winners and losers. No one in the legislature has indicated that more money will go into higher education with this plan. Assuming no new dollars, some will get more money than they do now, and some will get less. ETSU's graduation and retention rates have increased. THEC will make the final decision and present it to the legislature.

About the Health Care Law, Stanton said he is unsure of its effects on ETSU. Bitter commented that extending insurance to all employees' children, as the law requires, could cost the state and university much money.

Senator Trainor asked about flexibility in using grants. Stanton replied that some grant money is flexible, but most is dedicated to a specific purpose. Money for travel is now highly restricted to those who are presenting at or chairing meetings, or to those who must travel for the University's welfare. But travel is only 2 to 3% of expenses. On the other hand, the mandated bonus is not flexible; it may even be a part of salary increases, but no money is being made available for it. It has created a difficult management situation.

Senator Arnall commented on the 40% tax on "Cadillac" insurance policies included in the Health Care Policy. He wondered if there is incentive to stay in a policy instead of accepting the \$600 fine mandated for those who do not have insurance. Stanton said he fears state dollars for insurance will be cut

because of the poor economy. But he hopes that good things will come of the Health Care Policy.

Senator Dorgan asked if school closings due to weather cost or save money. Stanton replied they cost some but not much: on-campus HVAC systems and safety services continue. The decision to close is loosely based on local K-12 snow days. By 5 a.m. physical plant workers must begin if the campus is to be cleared, and parents on staff and faculty learn early whether their children are going to school. This year the 2-hour delay was activated. Also, the night schedule must be considered, including road conditions after classes. The condition of parking lots is a major concern, for during the last snow ETSU had no salt. The system is not perfect, but it is a good-faith effort. Safety is always the main concern; no one should risk life or limb.

Senator Loess asked about the net effect of VBOs. Stanton said they saved about \$3 million and eliminated 40 positions. His target was \$3.5 million.

Senator Schacht asked if retirees will be affected if the state cuts dollars for insurance and, if so, how. Stanton replied that he does not know. Also, we do not know if the state will fund any increases in premiums that insurance companies may require.

Senator Kaplan said that in Nursing students are told not to attend clinicals when ETSU is closed because of liability. Stanton asked that the matter be brought to his attention for further consideration and action.

Champouillon thanked Dr. Stanton and introduced Mr. Vernon Bradley, Director of Traffic and Parking.

Bradley thanked the Senate for the chance to introduce himself and brief senators on the services of his office. He explained that recent, ongoing, and future changes to traffic and parking policies are based on the Carl Walker Study (2006), the Desman Study (2008), and observations made by Parking Services personnel since August 2008. The Walker Study developed guidelines for a new traffic and parking department and means of increasing the efficiency of the campus shuttle service, BucShot.

Phase II created a Parking and Traffic Services office, increased enforcement personnel, and improved the shuttle system. It is establishing a third-party web-based system for issuing permits and citations. Remaining activities of Phase II include developing 320 new parking spaces at Village Lane, building a parking structure near Maple Street, increasing the number of metered spaces, and replacing the 20-year-old meters on campus. Future plans include developing value-based parking for core, periphery, residential, and commuter lots.

The advisory Parking Committee has three voting members representing faculty, students, and staff to deal with traffic and security matters. The Office of Traffic and Parking consists of the director, assistant director, three parking attendants, and two graduate assistants who help in the office and issue permits.

For attendants, the campus is divided into three zones. Attendants start in one zone and then rotate to the others, ensuring that all cars in violation of rules are cited.

BucShot has expanded from two 30-minute routes in 2003-2004 to four routes on 15-minute schedules covering the inner campus, parking lots, and campus housing. Ridership has increased 250%.

Future plans for Traffic and Parking include extension of Lot 22, increased parking at Buc Village, BucShot services to the VA campus and the downtown terminal, online appeals of citations, and updated parking meters.

Senator Stone asked if the planned BucShot to the VA could be made flexible because it would be more useful to students and faculty. Those trying to cross State of Franklin Road take their lives in their hands. He also suggested moving the Johnson City Transit terminal to ETSU's campus.

Bradley responded that because JCT pays for BucShot, it will not have flexibility. Stone replied that students need to go from Buc Village to the VA. Bradley explained that they can get a bus from Buc Village to the main campus, then transfer to the VA. Stone replied that impatient students will not take time for the cumbersome process; someone will get killed.

President Emeritus Alsop reported that in the spring 2010 Ideas Forum someone proposed increasing sidewalks to make walking on campus safer.

Senator Emma said there is no way to cross State of Franklin except to use the inconvenient overpass or to run across the busy highway. Bradley said he was able to get a fixed route to the VA this year. If it is not used, he and the city will go back to the table for a more viable plan.

Senator Harker asked if there is any way for commuting student and faculty to locate one another to carpool. Bradley said people can indicate their locations and desire to carpool in the parking office. He will look for a means to help carpoolers locate one another.

Senator Gerard said that graduate students currently use faculty places at the Art Annex; they may need their own spaces there. Bradley said ETSU has no control over parking at the Annex, for it is a city street. Graduate students get no dedicated spots on campus anyway.

Emma said that the only punishment for unpaid fines is for students, who do not receive their grades or are not permitted to register for classes. Why should faculty purchase permits and pay fines since they do not face similar punishments? Bradley said that unpermitted cars will be identified via the DMV, and faculty and staff will be ticketed and fined for not having permits and for other violations. Campus laws will be enforced.

Arnall said that at his department at the VA, disabled patients who come for treatment have no place to park. Bradley said that ETSU parking attendants do not determine or enforce parking policies at the VA, but he will bring the matter up to VA officials.

Senator Schacht asked if the parking department pays for itself. If there is any surplus, how is it used? Bradley responded that the department does pay for itself, and surplus is used to pay for repairs and replacement of lots and equipment.

Champouillon thanked Bradley for his report and for answering questions.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: Champouillon said Senate officers proposed additions to the Senate By-Laws: one set adds an officer and some duties, and the second set converts the ad hoc Handbook Committee to a standing committee.

Alsop explained that the goal of the Handbook Committee is to create an electronic format for all faculty documents. Proposals include the addition of a Chief Operating Officer (approved by the Senate in spring 2009). They add that “[t]he Secretary shall keep and maintain minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee.” The Chief Operating Officer’s duties include substituting “for the Secretary and/or Treasurer when either cannot perform his/her duties,” organizing, maintaining and supervising “the Faculty Senate office,” organizing and coordinating “the annual Faculty Senate Retreat,” and coordinating “the relationship between the Faculty Senate and the ETSU Retirees Association.” “The Treasurer shall a. coordinate all expense authorizations and reimbursements, b. maintain the Faculty Senate Courtesy Fund.”

Handbook revision includes identifying the status of President Emeritus: “All President Emeriti/ae shall be *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee.” This action was approved by the Senate in spring 2009.

Senator Morgan moved that the revisions concerning officers be incorporated into the Faculty Handbook. Bitter asked to make a friendly amendment adding two responsibilities to the Treasurer: “The Treasurer is required to make an annual financial report to the Senate,” and “The Treasurer shall coordinate all traffic requests and authorizations.” Morgan accepted the friendly amendment, and the motion passed with unanimous approval on voice vote.

Alsop introduced the second proposed addition to the Senate By-Laws, the standing Committee on the Faculty Handbook. "The voting membership of this committee shall be comprised as follows":

- a. a Chair who is preferably the Faculty Senate past president or otherwise a Faculty Senate member nominated by the Senate President who is endorsed and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate,
- b. Two Senator representing Health Sciences,
- c. Two senators representing Academic Affairs,
- d. One administrator appointed by the Vice President for Health Sciences, and
- e. One administrator appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

This addition also enumerates the duties of the Committee on the Faculty Handbook.

Alsop noted that the chair of the committee would vote only if there is a tie.

Schacht asked what part University Counsel has in the committee. Alsop said Counsel is not included. Champouillon added that either the committee or the University president could consult with Counsel for an opinion if desired.

Emma asked if the committee membership has been clearly established. Alsop replied that the membership is the same as that of the ad hoc committee. Champouillon commented that Alsop added the designation of the Senate past president as chair of the committee.

Bitter called for the vote, which approved the addition to the By-Laws unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Faculty Senate will hold its first retreat on August 24, 2010. Please let deans and chairs know to avoid scheduling conflicts.

The Senate Courtesy fund is \$458.71.

Senator Fisher announced that every five years the state puts out bids for Optional Retirement Plans (ORPs). TIAA-CREF, Valic, and ING are continuing as state ORPs. ETSU contributes 14.9% to TCRS as of July 1, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Champouillon adjourned the meeting at 4:37 pm.

Please notify Kathleen Grover (grover@etsu.edu or x96672), Faculty Senate Secretary, 2009-2010, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or x96691).

