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2000 February 7 - Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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MINUTES - February 7, 2000

Faculty Senate / East Tennessee State University

Last updated: February 13, 2000

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| <p>UPCOMING MEETING: February 21, 2000 2:45 PM Culp Forum Room</p> | <p>FOLLOWING MEETING: March 6, 2000 2:45 PM Culp Forum Room</p> |
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Present: Alavi, Aston, Butler, Chenoweth, Chi, Collins, Deadman, Grover, Harvey, Kelley, Kerley, King, Logan, McKinney, Mehta, Miller H, Miller P, Obregon, Oppewal, Parker, Patrick, Perry, Poole, Reesman, Stanley, Steadman, Stone, Tollefson, Varney, West, Williams.

Excused: Mattioli.

Absent: Burgess, Burkett, Faust, Gallemore, Hayes, Hemphill, Johnson, Mohon, Sluss.

Guests: Dr. Paul Stanton, Dr. Mike Castelaz, Dr. Bill Fisher, Dr. Bobby Funk, Stacie Harris, Dr. Anne LeCroy, Dr. Donald Luttermoser, Dr. Norma MacRae, Dr. Rich Ranker, Dr. Jean Stead, Dr. Gary Walters, Dr. Lori Wilson.

CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present, President Patrick called the meeting to order at 2:52 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 24, 2000 meeting were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **President Stanton's Report.** President Stanton reported on the factors leading to his decision to withdraw from his forthcoming appointment as Chancellor of TBR. Dr. Stanton discussed the process that actually occurred regarding the salary issues and then the manner in which those issues were reported by the media. Not wishing to become a pawn to further the political bantering and hidden agendas regarding higher education funding, Dr. Stanton then withdrew as a matter of principle. Dr. Stanton related that he was happy in his position as President of ETSU and that he could continue his fight for higher education funding from here. In response to questions from the Faculty Senate, Dr. Stanton stated that area legislators have told him they supported his decision. He encouraged faculty to continue applying pressure on the state legislature to prevent it from finding further excuses for reducing the priority level of higher education funding. Dr. Stanton also discussed the proposed "Unitary Plan" to combine the State's higher education systems into one. He noted that the Plan appears however to create five systems with UT as the flagship research institution. He cautioned the Faculty Senate to be aware of inequities of proposed funding allocations between the UT system and TBR.

Comments from the Faculty Senate and an extended ovation indicated that members are pleased that President Stanton remains at ETSU and that Nashville suffered the greater loss regarding his decision.

- **Report of SGA President Harris - Honor Code.** Stacie Harris discussed the issue of academic dishonesty. Noting her observations that cheating on examinations appears to be prevalent at ETSU, Ms. Harris distributed a proposed resolution sponsored by SGA Senator David Lane. The resolution requests that ETSU faculty list on all syllabi the definition of academic dishonesty and penalties for academic misconduct. Stating that students would be more aware of the Honor Code and penalties for violations if professors included information about academic dishonesty on their course syllabi, Ms. Harris requested Faculty Senate support for the resolution. Faculty Senators generally agreed with the principles and ideas presented regarding the issue but expressed some concern regarding the legal aspects and specifics of the general definition of academic dishonesty. Logan commented that Academic Matters would like to review the issue. The efforts of SGA President Harris to address this issue were recognized by an ovation. (For more information, contact Stacie Harris at x9-4253).
- **Report of Chair of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council.** Dr. Lori Wilson reported on issues before the Arts and Sciences Faculty Council. Dr. Wilson presented a chart (using TBR numbers) indicating that while student enrollments remained relatively flat for the period from 1988 to 1998, staff positions remained flat, there was a minor increase in faculty positions, but administrative positions increased substantially (by 60%). Dr. Wilson distributed a handout prepared by the Arts and Sciences Faculty Council (please see attachment). She stated that since part-time faculty were terminated during the last round of budget cuts, the Council is concerned about how the next round of budget cuts will affect faculty. She also presented a chart demonstrating that faculty salaries are not only lower than the national average, but also lower than the Southeast average. She showed that while faculty salaries in the College of Arts and Sciences have increased on average 31 percent over the last ten years, the salaries for Dean, Associate VP and VP have increased 43 percent over the same period. In addition, while the salary for full professor has increased 39 percent over the ten year period, the salary for VP has increased 67 percent. The Council concluded that if future budget cuts are required, these numbers should be considered. Related concerns were raised by Faculty Senators. The issue of cutting faculty numbers raised several comments, including the detrimental effects of the increased usage of adjunct faculty. There was a suggestion to look at specific areas of administration to see if increases are localized or generally spread among administration. There was general sentiment that these issues should be studied further, perhaps by an independent task force, and the results taken to Dr. Stanton. Patrick stated that this is a good start to addressing these issues and that there should be some type of formal liaison between the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council of the College of Arts and Sciences to coordinate efforts. (For more information, contact Dr. Lori Wilson at x9-6912).
- **Web-based Course and Distance Education.** Dr. Gary Walters discussed the report passed by Academic Council in June 1997. Dr. Walters stated that a course is identified as web-based (and as distance education by TBR) if more than 50 percent of the requirements of the course can be accessed through the Internet. Dr. Walters

addressed the Committee's recommendations in the report. First, web-based courses must be equivalent to the same courses taught in the traditional format, including learning outcomes. Second, faculty teaching web-based courses are expected to be familiar with and abide by all applicable or relevant copyright laws. Dr. Walters then discussed good practices regarding design of a web-based course, such as using the ETSU logo to identify the course as an ETSU course and using a public page to allow prospective students to view the course objectives, calendar, prerequisites, and technology required to access course modules. He stated that navigational structures should be consistent among courses and that a suggested standard is being developed. In conclusion, Dr. Walters stated the Committee's acknowledgment that faculty involvement is crucial and faculty must be rewarded for its efforts to ensure success in this program. (For more information, contact Dr. Gary Walters at x9-6809).

OLD BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Patrick announced that ArtCarved will sponsor an open house to gain input from the Faculty Senate to gain input regarding the design for the ETSU Official Ring. The open house will be held on February 16, 2000 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in meeting room 6 of the Culp Student Center.
- Patrick announced that Donna Russell (Nashville) and Dr. Mike Woodruff will address the February 21 meeting of the Faculty Senate regarding campus policy on intellectual policy issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m. at which time standing committees met.

Please notify Michael McKinney (mckinney@etsu.edu or x9-5391) Secretary, 1999-2000, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Webpage maintained by Stephen Patrick (patricks@etsu.edu or x9-6994) President, Faculty Senate, 1999-2000.