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2000 December 4 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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**FACULTY SENATE AGENDA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2000
2:45 PM / Culp Center - Meeting Room #6**

NOTE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRS: Please share the Senate agenda, minutes, and any other enclosures with your faculty prior to the scheduled meeting. Senate meetings are open to ALL faculty. Agendas, minutes, and attendance rosters are available on the Faculty Senate website at "<http://www.etsu.edu/senate/>".

LOCATION: CULP CENTER - MEETING ROOM #6

AGENDA FOR SENATE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: President Steadman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 20, 2000

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislative Update - Senator Rusty Crowe

Memorandum of Understanding for Internet-Based Courses - Dr. Norma McRae

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourn to committees

PLEASE NOTE: Next meeting, Monday, January 8, 2001, Culp Forum.

Send information and notices of non-attendance to Michael McKinney (mckinney@etsu.edu or x9-5391), Secretary, Faculty Senate, 2000-01.

MINUTES - December 4, 2000

Faculty Senate / East Tennessee State University

Last updated: January 4, 2001

UPCOMING MEETING:

January 8, 2001 2:45 PM
Culp Forum Room

FOLLOWING MEETING:

January 22, 2001 2:45 PM
Culp Forum Room

Present: Alavi, Aston, Broome, Burgess, Butler, Chi, Collins, Deadman, Fisher, Grover, Harvey, Hemphill, Kelley, Kerley, King, Li, Logan, Martin, Miller, H., Miller, P., Mohon, Patrick, Poole, Price, Sluss, Steadman, Tollefson, Varney, Verhegge, Williams.

Excused: Anderson, Hayes, Heath, Mattioli, McKinney, Reesman, Stanley.

Absent: Burkett, Gallemore, Mehta, Montgomery, Stone.

Guests: Dr. Norma MacRae, Dr. Gary Walters, Sen. Rusty Crowe.

CALL TO ORDER:

There being a quorum present, President Steadman called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 20, 2000 meeting were approved with one spelling error noted. In the report of the Academic Matters Committee, the word Northeast was misspelled. Approved on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Memorandum of Understanding for Internet-Based Courses.** Dr. Norma MacRae asked for Senate support for the draft "Memorandum of Understanding Regarding An Internet-Based Course or Courses". This draft was distributed to senators at the November 20th meeting. MacRae again reminded senators of the contents of the draft and asked for questions or observations from us. After discussion, Poole moved that the Senate endorse the draft. Patrick seconded and the motion passed on voice vote. (For more information, please contact Dr. Norma MacRae at x9-8300)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Legislative Update.** Senator Dewey "Rusty" Crowe addressed the Senate regarding legislation considered critical to higher education.

He reviewed in some detail the events of last year's legislative session, including the various proposals that were put forth to reform our system of taxation. He described the fate of each as one group after another stepped forward to object. Among them were various business taxes, wheel taxes, state property taxes, service taxes on professional services, and others. He also discussed some of the procedures used in the legislature to

realize a budget each year. He insisted that the final budget bill that passed was very much a patchwork bill based on a very generous estimate of probable sales tax revenues.

Crowe went on to discuss the income tax and reasons why the Legislature simply cannot manage to pass one given the 90% negative attitude toward it among Tennessee voters. He agreed that the income tax is probably the fairest and most dependable tax we could have, but argued that we have a terrible "public relations" problem with too many voters not understanding the situation.

In speculating about the coming year's activities, Crowe stated that there is no possibility of an income tax passing the coming session either. He proposed instead that the Legislature needs to carefully examine the many services & goods that are exempted from sales tax under current law, i.e., professional services such as doctors' care, haircuts, and feed for horses used for recreational purposes. He indicated that Tennessee currently does a billion and a half dollars worth of untaxed business each year. He stated that the income tax is not viable until one of two things happens: one, the Legislature tries every other possible means of raising revenue and can finally say to its constituents that it no longer has any other choice or, two, lawsuits currently being considered that would benefit small county school systems and cost many millions of dollars would force the Legislature to adopt a new tax.

Crowe agreed to return to the Senate after the coming session and keep us up to date on legislative progress.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Logan informed senators of current BFA exhibits in the Slocumb Gallery and invited them to visit.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Steadman adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m. Meetings of standing committees followed.

*Respectfully submitted,
David G. Logan*

Please notify Michael McKinney (mckinney@etsu.edu or x9-5391) Secretary, 2000-01, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Webpage maintained by Stephen Patrick (patrick@etsu.edu or x9-6994).