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2005 March 21 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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FACULTY SENATE AGENDA
Monday, March 21, 2005
2:45 PM Meeting Room 6

NOTE TO SENATORS: Please share the Senate agenda, minutes, and any other enclosures with your colleagues 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/>.

AGENDA FOR SENATE MEETING

Call to Order: President Stanley

Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2005

New Business: Provost Bert Bach will address us about the new Honors College and other matters.

Old Business:

Announcements:

Adjournment

Please Note: Next meeting Monday, April 4, 2005, Forum, 2:45 pm

Please send information and notices of non-attendance to Kathleen Grover (grover@etsu.edu or 96672), Secretary, Faculty Senate 2004-05.

MINUTES –March 21, 2005
Faculty Senate – East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING: April 18, 2005 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center	FOLLOWING MEETING: May 2, 2005 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center
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Present: Bennard, Bitter, Blanton, Burgess, Champouillon, Chi, Coates, Collins, Davis, Fisher, Grover, Hayes, Kerley, Mackara, Mozen, Patrick, Shafer, Shuttle, Silver, Stanley, Stone, Trogen, Whitten, Zogyie

Excused: Breese, Cornett, Daniels, Davenport, Jungkeit, Li, Morrow, Schaller-Ayers, Singh, Wallace

Absent: Kelley, Littleton, Mullersman, Nave, Thewke

Guests: Provost Bert Bach and Honors College Dean Rebecca Pyles

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, President Stanley called the meeting to order at 2:47 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 21, 2005, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS: President Stanley introduced and welcomed Drs. Bach and Pyles. Dr. Bach explained that although work on the Honors College (HC) is moving quickly, it is in a state of flux. In the past two weeks, he has been visiting two-year colleges to introduce the Midway Scholars Program. Senator Mackara asked if the new college would require additional staff. Dr. Bach said that two external searches, for a project manager and a curriculum director, are under way. A third position, office coordinator, will be filled by an internal search. Senator Bitter asked where the HC's offices will be located. Dr. Bach replied that initially they will be in the Graduate School. President Stanley asked Dr. Bach to explain the Midway Scholars Program. Dr. Bach said that the two-year program will include 20 students in each class, with ten from two-year institutions; all Midway Scholars will be given full tuition scholarships and enrichment support (travel, research, and book allowance). Bitter asked about required GPAs. Dr. Bach replied that requirements differ according to the program students participate in, varying from a 3.5 for an entering Midway Scholar to a 2.8 for a student entering the Arts Scholars Program. The College also anticipates a 20% increase in the Honors in Discipline Program, which requires a 30 ACT score in the particular discipline. Bitter said that such standards may exclude minority students whose talents have not been developed or whose GPAs might be lower because they were not given opportunities to excel in high school. Dr. Pyles explained that the standards are based on past experience and the recommendations of faculty

groups who worked on the proposals for the HC. Senator Champouillon asked if 2.5 is not a low GPA to be required for Arts Scholars. Dr. Pyles answered that representatives from each arts program on campus decided on that average, which may change. Senator Bitter commented that the International Studies Program, with its requisite 3.0 GPA, excludes some of the very Arts Scholars who might most benefit from and contribute to the program since Arts Scholars must maintain only a 2.5. Dr. Pyles repeated that future adjustments can be made in such policies.

Dr. Pyles explained students are being recruited for the Midway Scholars Program with a May 1, 2005, deadline. Each class of Arts Scholars will contain 25 students who are exceptional in the arts and whose previous academic records indicate their ability to maintain a 2.5. Bitter asked about an honors program in the College of Education. Dr. Pyles replied that Education's Honors in Discipline program is four years old and can be expanded. She referred interested senators to Marcia Songer, who directs the 14 Honors in Discipline programs currently available. These require 16 hours of credit in the field, with additional honors projects. Senator Stone asked if the HC will prompt growth in graduate programs with interaction between honors students and graduate students. Dr. Pyles agreed that she hopes so.

Senator Fisher asked if honors graduates are identified as such on their diplomas. Dr. Pyles replied that they are identified on their transcripts but currently no method exists to identify them on their diplomas.

Senator Silver asked if any strategy might ensure that honors graduates are competent writers. Dr. Pyles replied that she believes the Writing Across the Curriculum program and requirements for students to take writing-intensive courses are helping all students write better, but both writing and oral-presentation skills are stressed in honors courses. President Stanley added that the more directions writing is stressed from, the more likely it is that students will get the message of its importance.

Mackara asked if any other TBR schools have honors colleges. Pyles replied that MTSU does, but it is not as extensive as ETSU's. UT-K offers honors scholarships but has no unified honors program.

Bitter asked if the HC has a unifying curriculum. Pyles replied that each program within the college does, but there is not one overall curriculum.

Fisher asked how long MTSU's Honors College has existed. Pyles replied that it began four years ago and contains an Living and Learning Community component that ETSU will soon establish in a new dormitory. Pyles stressed that the HC will make new opportunities available campus wide in international studies, undergraduate research, creative arts, and student-faculty collaborative research and presentations. Dr. Bach added that ETSU's HC is distinguished by two important features: First, it has grown from a strong honors program; and, second, faculty are widely recognized for their willingness to work with students in research, as Dr. Mike Woodruff, Vice Provost, Research and Sponsored Programs, often points out.

Pyles next discussed the planned Honors College Faculty Fellows Program, in which a faculty member will be assigned to the HC for two years to teach and

implement a course with activities designed to have an across-campus impact. (The Fellow's regular departmental duties will be fulfilled by a two-year lecturer funded by the HC.) One fellowship is available for 2005-2006, two for 2006-2007.

Both Pyles and Bach stressed that they welcome suggestions concerning the HC and asked that concerns and suggestions be forwarded to them.

Fisher asked about the funding for the HC. Bach replied that the start-up costs of \$750,000 are funded now, with \$1.5 million committed to be available in the fifth year.

President Stanley thanked Bach and Pyles for their presentations.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fisher reported that the first TennCare case would appear in Federal court the following Monday. He also asked that any faculty concerns the State legislature might address be sent to the Legislative Affairs Committee. Stone reported that OITR is considering alternative operating systems such as LINUX.

ADJOURNMENT: President Stanley adjourned the meeting to committees at 3.57 pm.

Please notify Kathleen Grover (grover@etsu.edu or x96672), Secretary, 2004/05, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web page is maintained by Doug Burgess (burgessw@etsu.edu or X96691).