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Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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MINUTES –May 1, 2006
Faculty Senate – East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING: August 28, 2006 2:45 pm Meeting Room 6, Culp Center	FOLLOWING MEETING: September 11, 2006 2:45 pm Dining Room 2, Culp Center
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Present: Alsop, Anderson, Burgess, T. Campbell, Champouillon, Chi, Cornett, Crimi, Daniels, Davis, Drummond, Dula, Fisher, Garrett, Glenn, Grover, Hayes, Ismail, Jordan, Kaplan, Kelley, Li, Littleton, Mackara, McCrea, Morrow, Mozen, Nave, Patrick, Peiris, Roach, Schreiner, Shuttle, Stanley, Stone, Trogen, Wallace

Excused: Baryla, Bitter, Blanton, Cherry, Dorgan, Ecay, Gerard, Mullersman, Myron, Roberts, Schacht, Shafer, Whitten

Guests: ETSU President Paul Stanton, Provost Bert Bach, Vice President for Administration Wilsie Bishop, Vice President for Business and Finance David Collins, and Vice Provost in the School of Continuing Studies Norma MacRae

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, President Elect Mackara called the meeting to order at 2:48 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Senate minutes for April 3 and April 17, 2006, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS: President Elect Mackara added the topic of summer pay to the agenda. Next he introduced President Stanton, who congratulated and thanked all senates for a great year. Stanton spoke on preparations for the next fiscal year and the state of many university projects; he and the other guests responded to both pre-submitted and extemporaneous questions.

Stanton explained that funding for next year remains unsure: The last 2% employee raise came from ETSU's coffers, and tuition increases have been necessary to replace funding not coming from the state. He hopes for a good year for capital outlay dollars because such funding is usually favorable in election years. We do not know tuition and insurance increases. Though we plan on flat income from flat enrollment, enrollment from border counties given in-state tuition is already excellent. Construction on the VA campus and the fossil site is proceeding on schedule; the College of Pharmacy has acquired the \$7.5 million prerequisite for accepting students, with its dean, associate deans, and department chairs in place. The College of Public Health, also on schedule, will bring in much needed federal funding. Renovation of Yoakley Hall for the Honors College and of the old Sherrod Library is well under way, with Computer Science and Technology begin to move in next week.

In response to a pre-submitted question about his involvement in rewriting SACS requirements, Stanton replied that he is extensively involved and will report on progress at the June SACS meeting. About 40% of the institutions have been reviewed.

About his plans for retirement, Stanton recalled that when he became ETSU president, he said he intended to remain in the position for a minimum of eight years, a maximum of 12. Now in his tenth year, he pledges that if he would like to stay beyond 12, he will consult with the Senate; he will provide a minimum of a year's notice when he does decide to retire. He is now looking for lakefront property for weekends with his grandchildren.

Stanton referred a question concerning equity pay to Vice President Wilsie Bishop, who explained that each year we plan to act on the national model for faculty equity pay, funding permitting—but funding has not been available. Equity pay actions for staff began last year, and CUPA is used for executive staff. Human Resources will compare data for faculty pay adjustments. Senator Champouillon, citing a rumor that faculty are on a different scale from staff and executives, asked if a raise is likely this year. Stanton answered that we cannot know until July 1st, but David Collins is working to get faculty raises. The state may grant another 2% increase at a cost of \$1.4 million. Champouillon commented that it hurts to qualify still for equity pay after 12 years of college teaching.

Bishop also addressed the next question, about health and safety on campus. She explained that ETSU has a standing contract with a company to clean up mold and free asbestos, with neither contaminant currently in evidence. The physical plant is planning a major assessment of asbestos and the cost of removal or containment. The print shop in Sam Wilson Hall puts out noxious but harmless fumes. Senator Trogen asked if anyone has checked Wilson-Wallis Hall for black mold. Provost Bach said that during an accreditation visit two years ago, Health and Safety met with the Art Department to address problems there. Bishop suggested that complaints be directed to Pete Gregg at Health and Safety (96028) and to her; she will monitor the situations. Current fumes in Sam Wilson Hall are uncomfortable but not dangerous. Stanton asked if the possibility of moving the print shop has been examined. Bishop replied it had. Stanton said he would not like to work in such fumes and suggested that the move be reconsidered.

Bach spoke on the topic of planning and institutional effectiveness, especially concerning how ETSU stands with respect to SACS' core requirements and standards for institutional effectiveness. The Strategic Planning Committee's preliminary report is that we are in compliance with two standards, for student learning and documentation of goals. He and Vice President Bill Kirkwood have visited all chairs, who have reported on departmental compliance. Participation in AQI creates more paperwork but is productive.

Champouillon asked if adjunct faculty are required to participate in the paperwork. Bach answered that although paperwork is required to research and document compliance, nothing assigns that responsibility to adjuncts. Champouillon said he has been asked to report adjuncts' concerns about the matter. Stanton asked that both he and Bach be informed if any faculty are being treated unfairly or pressed to meet unfair standards.

Bach asked if Vice Provost MacRae has reported on the online SAI for RODP courses. Gary Walters is installing the program and trial SAIs have been run. Forms are standardized for all online courses. MacRae added that implementing the process takes much work since someone must install the questions, remove data, and make it available to departments. She anticipates the program will work this fall.

Vice President Collins addressed questions concerning safety in ETSU vehicles, explaining that training is required only for van drivers to help them avoid rollovers. Because it is not illegal for drivers to use cell phones, we cannot enforce a policy against their use. When he gets reports on speeding and unsafe practices involving ETSU cars that include vehicle or license plate numbers, he contacts the faculty drivers and makes them aware of the complaints.

Senator Alsop asked if vehicles not requiring the removal of seats can be provided to transport students. Collins said such vehicles can be acquired once those currently in use must be replaced because of mileage or incapacity.

Senator Stone noted that as the price of gas increases, students will find living on campus to be cost-effective. He asked if ETSU is prepared and if we are cooperating with Johnson City to make mass transit available. Bishop replied that ETSU's contract with Johnson City permits students to ride free, and the city provides the BucShot vehicles on campus. We are beginning negotiations for public transportation from Gray, Kingsport, and other locations.

Collins reported that a survey conducted a few years ago revealed 2100-2200 beds available in on-campus housing then, not including Buc Ridge and married students' housing. Sprinklers are mandated in every room by 2008. Maintenance and renovations have reduced current capacity to about 1800 beds, but much housing is available around campus, and private developers are working to increase it.

Mackara asked if ETSU is making efforts to replace vehicles with fuel-saving models. Collins answered that we replace vehicles at around seven years or 120,000 miles. If the market makes such vehicles available economically, we will acquire them. Stanton added that we do not take private production of housing units lightly and work with builders to ensure suitable lodging for our students. Also, there is talk of a monorail from downtown to campus to ease demands on fuel.

Stone said that the fuel crunch creates an opportunity to form a real academic community and increase retention. Collins agreed, stating that the new dorm will be a community with a clubhouse, mini-store, meeting rooms, and grouping of students by common interests.

Stone asked if the campus will be made more bike friendly. Collins said the Master Plan will make the center of campus vehicle-free, with walking and bike trails.

Bishop suggested that the new Master Plan be presented in a fall Senate meeting.

Senator Jordan asked if the University has established a means for dealing with avian flu. Stanton replied yes; a Task Force is already in place, with the help of the state. He introduced Jordan, from the Department of Internal Medicine in QCoM, citing Jordan's professional concern for health. Stanton projected that if a pandemic occurs, up to 30% of the world's population will get the disease, and half of them will die.

Mackara added that the Senate has responded to a request to name members to an avian flu committee by suggesting the inclusion of the president elect and Senator Mullersman, among others. Senator Kaplan explained that a Task Force is addressing the issues of avian flu. The subgroup Mackara has been discussing is concerned with academic problems arising from a pandemic, whereas the one Stanton has cited will focus more on medical containment and treatments. She added that the State Health Department is involved with the latter group. Stanton commented that we must be ready for a pandemic, and Mackara said all suggestions for dealing with avian flu will be well received.

Senator Mozen said that evaluations of internet classes by chairs who have not taught them may pose problems when the online SAIs are implemented.

Senator Nave asked if we are getting the proposed athletic complex. Stanton answered that because all money going into it must be private funding, we need to raise \$550,000 for the three soccer fields (one practice field for women, another for men, and a third field for games) in the next few weeks to be on schedule. No state funds can be used for such facilities.

Bach and Collins addressed the topic of summer school pay. Bach said that when he realized Banner would interfere with the usual summer pay schedule, he tried to delay its implementation until 2007 but could not. Banner was begun last August and requires 60-80 hours per week to get the payroll out, making mid-month checks impossible. Thus, summer school pay will be combined with two regular end-of-month checks rather than in a third separate check. Other TBR institutions face the same problem. Senator Dula asked if Banner will permit access to pay history. Bach replied that it will, once it is fully activated.

Banner will permit much more electronic access to data but requires much training to be implemented.

Mackara thanked Stanton, Bach, Bishop, Collins, and MacRae for sharing their valuable information. In turn, Stanton thanked senators for the opportunity to speak.

OLD BUSINESS: Mackara next conducted the election of 2006-2007 Senate officers, commenting that President Bitter was unavailable to do so because he was on his way home from Korea. Fred Alsop was elected President Elect, Kathleen Grover was elected Secretary, and Lee Daniels was elected Treasurer, all by acclamation. Mackara gave President Elect Alsop his first assignment, to the Avian Flu Committee.

Treasurer Paul Trogen reported that both the Senate account and the courtesy fund have ended the year with positive balances. The Senate account covered supplies, travel, and refreshments, while the courtesy fund paid for flowers and memorial gifts.

Mackara asked for end-of-year committee reports:

Senator Morrow reported that the Academic Matters Committee considered the proposed but defeated change to a four-day week but otherwise had a slow year.

Senator Burgess reported that the Concerns and Grievances Committee revised the Faculty Handbook to propose changes in C & G procedures. The proposed changes are being considered by the Academic Council, members of which want new wording before accepting them. Some resolution is expected soon. Recommendations to President Stanton concerning a grievance were accepted and acted on.

Senator Patrick reported on a meeting of the TBR Faculty Sub-council he attended two weeks before. The group determined that only the state can negotiate contracts for software. Faculty and staff should not download non-contracted software, for they could be legally liable. Patrick will be Chair Elect of the Sub-council for 2006-2007.

Senator Fisher urged participation in the upcoming elections and announced the tax-free weekend of August 4-6. Since there are 17 open slots in the state legislature this year compared to four last year, candidates may face increased opposition.

Senator Dula reported for the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee that because peer evaluation is part of the tenure and promotion process, the committee created a two-page tool for peer evaluation.

Senator Daniels said the Committee on Committees has filled just about every slot, but a senator/veteran is needed for the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Mackara reported that, though the change has not yet been made, we still plan to make the representative of ETSURA to the Senate a voting senator. He also asked that senators encourage the election of new senators in their colleges soon; despite requests, results of college elections have not all come in.

Mackara deferred the year-end review until next fall's first meeting. He asked that senators (and all concerned others) email him with concerns and ideas about how the Senate can improve the welfare of faculty. He thanked all senators for their service and credited President Bitter and the 2005-2006 Senate for making the year a very productive one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Mackara adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Please notify Kathleen Grover (grover@etsu.edu or 96672), Secretary, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web page is maintained by Doug Burgess (burgessw@etsu.edu or 96691).