

East Tennessee State University

Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University

Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes

Agendas and Minutes

1-26-2009

2009 January 26 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.etsu.edu/faculty-senate-agendas-minutes>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University, "2009 January 26 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes" (2009). *Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes*. 289.

<https://dc.etsu.edu/faculty-senate-agendas-minutes/289>

This Agendas and Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Agendas and Minutes at Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. For more information, please contact digilib@etsu.edu.

MINUTES—JANUARY 26, 2009

Faculty Senate—East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING: February 9, 2009 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center	FOLLOWING MEETING: February 23, 2009 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center
---	---

Present: Alsop, Arnall, Brown, Buerkle (proxy for Dorgan), Burgess, Byington, Campbell, Champouillon, Cherry, Creekmore, Crowe, Drummond, Ecay, Fisher, Fitzgerald, Gerard, Glover, Govett, Granberry, Grover, Hamdy, Hemphill, Horton, Kaplan, Kelley, Martin, Metts, Michieka (proxy for Elhindi), Morgan, Mozen, Mullersman, Mustain, Peiris, Price, Roach, Schacht, Scott, Shuttle, Smurzynski, Stone, Stuart, Tarnoff, Trainor, Trogen, Zhu, Zou

Excused: Bitter, Dorgan, Elhindi, Franklin, Kortum, Loess, Shafer

Guest: ETSU President Paul E. Stanton, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, President Trogen called the meeting to order at 2:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

CONTINUING BUSINESS: Dr. Stanton commented that he has never seen another time with such economic troubles, though the state and University have faced money problems before during his tenure as president. Academic year 2008-2009 began with a 5.8% reversion that increased to 15%. Now Governor Bredesen is talking about 25%. Figures are flying everywhere, with the US Congress discussing \$39 billion in a stimulus package for colleges. He wonders how far federal aid will go if the measure passes. Now, it looks as if the \$8 million for QCOM may be cut \$2 million, perhaps even \$4 million. TBR is developing a methodology for dealing with the shortfalls.

Stanton then thanked Trogen for his work on the Budget Reduction Task Force (BRTF). the Task Force is working to synthesize suggestions and come up with a unified statement to be issued at a university-wide meeting on February 16th. The situation is further complicated by our not knowing how many students will take how many hours over 12 if the tuition cap is lifted as proposed. He would like Voluntary Buy-Outs (VBOs) to be an option, but ETSU must have enough money in its reserves to meet the extensive one-time costs of VBOs. If furloughs are enacted, he has already volunteered a week's furlough himself.

The Task Force is looking at individual departments for possible dismantling. It and he do not support a proposal for tenured and tenure-track faculty to be paid adjunct pay for teaching summer school classes.

Stanton has asked Dr. David Collins to look for every possible reduction in expenses. ETSU can save \$5 million without having to enact RIFs, but if cuts must be more extensive, we may need furloughs. TBR and its presidents agree with a sunset date of 2012 for furloughs and/or reductions in pay. In a few weeks we will know the role of furloughing in budget reduction; the Task Force is examining its feasibility, implementation, and effectiveness. ETSU must be ready for the worst-case scenario.

Senator Hemphill commented that he has children who are college students. They benefit from fee reductions for faculty members' families. Will their benefits be lessened by their having to pay for all hours over 12? Stanton replied that those benefits and the lottery have not yet been discussed. Governor Bredesen will be meeting soon with THEC. Stanton hopes Bredesen will clarify the situation rather than dictate it.

Past President Alsop asked if Congress does award \$39 billion to colleges with another \$10 billion for capital improvements, do we have plans for using our share? Stanton answered that until "we have marching orders," we will not make plans, but we do have projects lined up that are "shovel ready."

Senator Stone said we need to consider the full cost of education and lessen it as much as possible via increasing mass transit, having courses and textbooks on line, making inexpensive housing plentiful and nearby, etc. Stanton agreed that ETSU is behind in meeting such challenges. We must consider options and be better stewards. Students share the "common misery" afflicting us all. Stone added that we should use free software and operating systems to cut the cost of information technology.

Senator Tarnoff said he has been at ETSU for 15 years. He would like to see the process to help departments develop commercial projects streamlined. Stanton answered that ETSU personnel have been meeting with Tennessee Tech personnel to discuss entrepreneurial activities. Provost Bach notes that TBR and THEC have not changed their basic funding for 20 years. This year students are paying more than state appropriations are for their educations.

Stanton explained that the 25% reversion is actually about 20.5% of the total budget since research, technology, and a few other appropriations are not included in the funds being reduced. He firmly believes the country will be a different one when it comes out of the current depression. With sales tax as its base, Tennessee will take a few years longer to recover than other states will.

Senator Byington asked what ETSU's future enrollments look like. Small schools are disappearing as their endowments and incomes shrink. Stanton replied that our enrollment will increase. ETSU has just received the highest performance scoring in the state. Usually that would ensure full formula funding, but this year we will get no money from it. Our reputation because of it will increase our

enrollment, however. In addition, people often return to school during hard times to increase their ability to get better jobs and earn higher wages. We will not cap enrollment, but we do have about 20% latitude with fees from students. He is worried that financial aid packages and the lottery are not keeping up with students' expenses. We can become our own lending agent and may do so because of troubles we have recently had with other entities making loans to our students.

Senator Champouillon thanked Stanton for including the Faculty Senate president in Senior Staff. Stanton asserted that doing so keeps everything transparent. He again thanked all for participating in the Senate and in the budget reduction. Trogen thanked Stanton for his candid report and answers to the Senate.

NEW BUSINESS: Alsop announced the Ideas Forum to be held February 9th from 1 to 4 p.m. He reported that Jim Bitter, then Senate president, proposed the Forum about three years ago. Ideas should not be grant proposals but ideas for improving processes or goals on campus that might otherwise meet dead ends or take too long to go through other channels. Both faculty and staff are invited to participate, to take an idea directly to ETSU administrators. Alsop distributed posters to senators to be put up in campus buildings.

Trogen asked senators to fill out the survey on furloughing sent out the previous Friday. He said the BRTF needs responses to inform and influence legislators, TBR, and THEC. February 2nd is to be the last meeting of the Task Force, which needs time between then and February 16th to formulate a workable stance on furloughing.

Senator Mozen reported that her dean has asked every department in the college to revise workloads quickly to develop budget savings. She and her colleagues are concerned that people will be evaluated by current standards but expected to appear to do less to justify cost reductions.

Senator Arnall added that Health Sciences faculty have been asked to look at requirements of their accrediting bodies to see how they can accommodate them and still deal with budget shortfalls—"to justify our existence." He asked, "How do we define teacher travel or contract work or special student requirements within our very differing disciplines in a one-size-fits-all rubric?"

Champouillon replied that according to ETSU's Revised Workload Policy, faculty are supposed to determine their individual workloads with their departmental chairs. Arnall said revisions are leaving no room for individuality. Mozen added that it is futile to create a policy when administrators will cut it down.

Senator Gerard said that art professors teach six hours a week for three-credit-hour studio classes. Those with three three-hour studio classes in effect teach 18 hours for nine hours of credit.

Arnall asserted that he opposes furloughs. "They say we are not even worth being paid for what we work for," and we are already not being paid what we earn.

Hemphill said all are "preaching to the choir." We do not need an adversarial relationship. We do need to create a "collective consciousness" on the legislative level by working on the two state leaders and other legislators from East Tennessee.

Tarnoff asked if it might be possible to stop the tenure and promotion clock at this point. If someone must teach more to meet departmental needs during the budget emergency, he or she may not be able to complete research requirements. Trogen said the Executive Committee would bring up those points with Provost Bach at their meeting with him the next morning. Champouillon commented that tenure and promotion committees are supposed to respect each faculty member's established workload when evaluating him or her, but some committees form judgments independent of those workloads.

Also said that the presidency of the Faculty Senate has expanded: it continues through summers because decisions are made and policies are shaped then, and we need to respond to them. The Senate may need to establish a two-year term for its president so "the learning curve and rapport developed" can be used effectively. Senator Fisher agreed that continuity is "absolutely essential."

Also said another concern is the concept of time in rank in tenure and promotion matters. He was on a promotion and tenure committee in Pharmacy, with a candidate going up for full professor. Does "six years in rank" mean one can go up in the sixth year, or must he/she wait until the seventh year, when the sixth has actually been completed? We need to deal with this question, perhaps in a Faculty Senate standing committee. Champouillon added that policy permits a candidate to apply early in "exceptional circumstances." But what is "exceptional"? Who decides, and when? TBR does not have a minimum time in rank; it is a local requirement.

Hemphill volunteered the Elections and Governance Committee to handle the matter.

Champouillon commented that a 12% increase in tuition plus per-hour costs above 12 if the cap is lifted will result in a 50% tuition increase for students taking 15 hours.

Senator Burgess said UT-K students are willing to accept a 24% tuition increase but not a charge per credit hour above 12 hours.

Trogen commented that he can see students' points, but some sign up for many hours and then drop some too late for other students to get places in those classes.

He said we need to consider our battles carefully.

Byington added that ETSU's tuition is a bargain compared to tuitions for UT-K, Virginia Tech, and many other schools in the region.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Fisher called attention to the article "Effects of Republican Wins Will Ripple through State Government" in *The Tennessee Journal*. He has distributed the article for senators' information.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

*Please notify Kathleen Grover (grover@etsu.edu or x96672), Faculty Senate Secretary, 2008-2009, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or x96691).
wordsmithing*