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1986 October 20 - Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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East Tennessee State University
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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 1986 FACULTY SENATE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

President Bill Fisher called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m., there being a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the October 6, 1986 meeting were approved by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After several announcements, President Fisher asked for discussion on the continuance of mailing the minutes to all faculty and administration. The other option available for communicating Senate activities is the ETSU Update. In the interest of providing news to the university community as quickly as possible, the motion was made by Anne LeCroy and seconded by Glenda DeJarnette that a summary of the minutes be put in the UPDATE. The motion was carried. There were three abstentions.

PROGRAM BY THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Five items from a list of ten suggestions were selected by members of the Executive Committee. Some of the items had also been suggested by the School of Applied Science and Technology at the September 22, 1986 meeting. President Fisher broached the idea of a retreat or meeting with President Beller at some point to discuss a list of items which seem to be of interest to all of the schools and colleges.

Anne LeCroy, Faculty Senator, led the discussion of the following items:

- 1) The role of the Governance Committee (University Council) in implementing improved communication between faculty and administration.
- 2) Delays in decision-making, especially in hiring new faculty, responding to proposals by Faculty Senate, and acting upon tenure and promotion matters.
- 3) The quality of the current instrument used for student evaluation of faculty.
- 4) The use of evaluations for administrative decision-making relative to merit, promotion, and tenure.
- 5) The criteria set for the Master's degree, particularly the option of extra course work in lieu of a thesis or set of designated papers.

President Fisher announced that he had requested that the Governance Committee include in its agenda a decision on the abolition or continuation of

the Academic Freedom and Responsibilities Committee, the Budget and Planning Committee, the Safety Committee and one other. A quick decision is necessary.

Arne LeCroy stated that the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council had asked a sub-committee to prepare a draft policy to direct the College Tenure and Promotion Committee to request the Dean of the College, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the President to provide justification in writing or otherwise for any tenure or promotion decisions they have made which deviate from faculty recommendations.

Discussion began about hiring practices. Several senators and visitors mentioned the problem of the length of time required presently to get candidates approved in order to notify them. One problem in particular caused by delays has been the inability to hire minority candidates. Other schools with better procedures have been able to offer the jobs sooner. One senator felt that the EEO approach at ETSU is not serious.

One of the causes for delay is that the request-for-advertising form must go through several offices for several signatures, Wilsie Bishop explained. The process can take four to six weeks.

Delays are also caused by prolonged discussion over salaries. The candidates accept other jobs while waiting for decisions from ETSU.

The discussion returned to the proposal by the College of Arts and Sciences that administrators justify in writing decisions on promotion or tenure which reverse recommendations by the promotion and tenure committee. It was noted that the College of Education promotion and tenure committee had asked in the past for administrators' decisions to be explained and had received no response.

Questions were raised about who the members of the Governance Committee are and how often it meets. The University Council (Governance Committee) has not yet met this year. It appears to be ineffective.

The feeling that faculty (in faculty committees) seem to play a weak role in governance was illustrated by further discussion about decisions made by administrators which overruled decisions by the Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee. Better written records by administrators and the committee should be kept, for legal reasons, some suggested.

The observation was made that in reality faculty responsibilities and power are limited to a very few areas. Other areas, like promotion and tenure, seem to be governed by one or two people who can overrule decisions by groups of faculty and give no reasons. The faculty should have more of a role to play in defining "faculty governance". The faculty need to decide what they want their role to be.

Dean Jewell Friend reminded the Senate of how difficult it is to find faculty to serve on promotion and tenure committees, to make judicious decisions.

A Senator observed that last year several reports and resolutions resulted from Senate Committee activity and no action has been taken on any of them.

Arne LeCroy began a discussion of questions three and four. She stressed that something should be done soon about the student evaluation instrument, that especially a narrative statement should be included on such a statement.

Wilsie Bishop asked what the procedure is for Senate's resolutions being passed on to appropriate parties. John Taylor stated that some resolutions or suggestions had been passed on to the University Council, and nothing had been done in most cases. Many who had hopes for what the University Council could do have been disappointed. John Stone, chairperson of the Senate Faculty Development and Evaluation, noted that the SAI Interpretation Guidelines had been referred by the Academic Council to a university committee charged with reviewing the overall evaluation process and nothing had been done.

President Fisher asked for recommendations for appropriate action regarding the items discussed. A suggestion was made that rather than continuing with umbrella committees that the Faculty Senate serve as the final decision-making body which sends recommendations to administrators.

The role of the Faculty Senate is supposedly to advise and make suggestions for the betterment of the university, rather than do the administrative work. Frustration has increased because the hard work which has gone into advice and suggestions has often gone unappreciated. John Taylor added that the situation for the faculty is better, however, that it was many years ago.

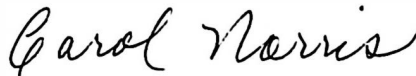
Finally, after some further discussion, the desire of the Senate was expressed to know the results of any actions taken on past resolutions. The Executive Committee was charged with compiling a list of past resolutions and items mentioned in this year's Senate meetings to be presented to President Beller at some future date.

President Fisher stated that the Executive Committee would attempt to form a list at its meeting on October 27 and later present it to the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol B. Norris, Secretary

OCT 31 1986

Carol Norris
P. O. Box 22450A

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

TO: • Academic Council Members
 FROM: • Richard Yount, Registrar *[Signature]*
 SUBJECT: • Registration Calendar - Spring, Summer & Fall, 1987
 DATE: • 10-20-86

The attached calendar represents the changes discussed and approved at the last Academic Council and subsequently by the President.

After further discussion, the number of hours for Undergraduate registration (fourth line) was changed from 19 to 10 hours.

All university resources connected with the advisement, registration, fee payment and support of these processes are to be open and available during these times.

REGISTRATION CALENDAR

	Spr 87	Sum 87	Fall 87
Graduate & Undergraduate over 90 hours	12/1 M	4/20 M	4/27 M
Undergraduate 60 hours & over	12/2 T	4/20 M	4/28 T
Undergraduate 30 hours & over	12/3 W	4/21 T	4/29 W
Undergraduate 10 hours & over	12/4 R	4/22 W	4/30 R
Open-Continuing, Former & New Spr/Sum	12/5 F	4/22 W	5/1 * F
	12/8-12	4/23-24	
		5/ 4- 8	
	1/12-16	5/18-20	
		5/28-29	5/28-29
		6/ 4-10	6/22-26
		7/13-15	7/20-24
			8/10-14
			8/20-25

Total Number Registration Days: -15- -23- -26-

Advertised Evenings (until 6 p.m.)	1/12		6/22 7/20 8/10 8/24-25
Additional Registrar Evenings **	1/20-22		8/26-27
Classes Begin	1/20 T	5/18 M	8/26 W

* Fall term - New & New Transfer Students register only during an orientation session

** Office of the Registrar open in support of Evening/Summer School Office

Note: The Evening & Summer School Office will provide registration on a continuing basis, once registration begins, for those students.

CAROL J. NORRIS

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