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### 1990 January 22 - Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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**MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**January 22, 1990**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Hugh LaFollette, President of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 4, 1989 meeting were approved without corrections.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dr. Bill Fisher, Faculty Senate Treasurer, presented a financial report (See 'East Tennessee State University Faculty Senate Financial Report', dated January 22, 1990.) He pointed out the following remaining balances on 12-31-89: travel - (\$1,793.97), student worker (\$691.45), and duplicating & supplies (\$1,016.05).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Matters Committee**

Dr. Al Lucerni, Academic Matters Committee chair, reported that the Committee has been deliberating concerning faculty exchanges. They expect to have a recommendation concerning exchanges in time for the February 19, 1990 Senate meeting.

**Committee on Committees**

Dr. Margaret Hougland gave the committee report since the committee chair, Dr. Ernest Bentley, was not present in time to give the report. Dr. Hougland reported that the Committee is in the process of building a database containing information about standing committee membership for the past five years. Currently information for the past two years has been entered.

**Concerns and Grievances Committee**

Dr. Lattie Collins, Concerns and Grievances Committee chair, said no new matters have been referred to this Committee.

**Research Committee**

Dr. Bob Acuff, Research Committee chair, reported that the Committee is close to having a report on its recommendations concerning a non-instructional assignment program. He indicated that the Committee will meet soon to compare its proposed recommendations (prepared during the Fall semester) with the guidelines for the non-instructional assignment program which was recently announced by the administration.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discussion of the Student Assessment of Instruction (SAI)**

Dr. LaFollette turned the meeting over to Dr. Saralyn Gold, Development and Evaluations Committee chair, in order to allow senators to provide input for the Committee to consider in connection with its deliberations concerning the SAI. Dr. Gold pointed out that the mailout of the December 4, 1989 meeting contained copies of two versions of the SAI which were considered by the Senate last year. The following are some of the points discussed:

1. Should the form contain questions as to whether or not the instructor is guilty of sexism, racism, age discrimination, etc. in class?
2. Would it be better not to ask students to rate the instructor's method of evaluation as "too easy", "about right", "too hard", etc.? [Question 12, revised form.]
3. Instead of asking whether or not the instructor "knows the subject well", it may be better to ask whether or not he/she is "well-prepared for class". [Question 8, revised form.]
4. Some questions are not equally applicable to all fields of study, for example the question regarding whether or not the instructor "discourages students from expressing their own views". Should such questions be eliminated or should departments or colleges choose (in advance) a subset of the questions which are thought to be particularly applicable and consider only the responses to these questions?
5. Should the Senate's recommendation concerning faculty evaluation include not just the SAI, but a comprehensive faculty evaluation/development proposal, such as was considered (but never implemented) a few years ago?
6. Is the SAI being administered too often, to too many classes? Several senators expressed the opinion that students are being turned off by overuse of this evaluation mechanism.
7. Can the form be validated, i.e., does it distinguish between good and bad teaching in a way that is consistent with other information concerning teaching effectiveness?
8. Should the number of possible responses be the same for all questions (or statements)?
9. Should a question be included as to whether or not the class meets regularly, at the scheduled time?

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

#### Present

Bob Riser  
Jim Pleasant  
Suzanne Smith  
Lattie Collins  
Mark Holland  
Scott Beck  
David Close  
Hugh LaFollette  
Colin Baxter  
Anne LeCroy  
Edwin Williams  
Alfonso Lucero  
Charles Johnson

Bill Flaher  
George Granger  
Ernest Bentley  
Mary Nelson  
Bill Campbell  
Brad Arbogast  
Bob Acuff  
Margaret Hougland  
Sue McCoy  
William Stone  
Carol Gordon  
Virginia Adams  
Rosemary Brown  
Richard Verhegge

Phil Scheuerman  
Deborah Fortune  
Saralyn Gold  
Gene McCoy  
Marie Tedesco  
Robert Davidson

#### Absent

Carroll Hyder  
Christa Hungate  
Katie Dunn  
Chris Ayres  
Charles Beseda  
Clark Gillett