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1990 November 19 - Faculty Senate Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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FACULTY SENATE
NEXT MEETING:
November 19 at 3:30 pm
FORUM ROOM, CULP CENTER

Notes: TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRS: Please post this in your department office or circulate among your faculty. THANKS.

AGENDA

- 1) Approval of the November 5 minutes (enclosed).
- 2) Treasurer's report.
- 3) Announcements
 - a) Anne LeCroy has been elected chair of the senate's committee on committees.
- 4) Committee reports
 - a) Motion to move election of faculty senators to spring (enclosed)
- 5) New business
 - a) Graduation Procedures - Susan Burkey, Registrar's Office will discuss the graduation process, e.g. graduation checks, honors, ...
 - b) Information Resources - James Vaught, Vice-President for Information Resources will discuss and answer questions on his areas of responsibility, e.g. instructional tv, data communications, computer services.
- 6) Other business
- 7) Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 1990 FACULTY SENATE MEETING

President Bob Riser called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The following two corrections were made on the October 15 minutes: 1) "The minutes October 1 . . ." was changed to: "The minutes of October 1 . . . "; and 2) Margaret Houglund's absence was an excused one.

TREASURER'S REPORT. There was no treasurer's report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Riser made the following announcements: 1) Academic Council unanimously passed the Change of Grade Policy (See October 1, 1990 minutes for the grade change proposal.); 2) on October 23, 1990 the SGA rejected the plus and minus grades recommendation made by the senate; 3) Academic Council approved the Grade Appeal Policy and the Student Bill of Rights. The latter policy had been modified slightly as suggested by the university attorney.

Riser also reported on the October 19, 1990 meeting of the TBR Faculty Sub-Council meeting held in Nashville. (See November 5 mailout for details). Riser called attention to the Academic Affairs Sub-Council's appointment of a committee to investigate the proposal for a post-tenure review of faculty. Hugh LaFollette, arts and sciences, moved that the senate's Development and Evaluation Committee look into this subject. After seconding of the motion brief discussion followed. Ernest Bentley, education, pointed out that graduate faculty already are subject to review every six years. Bill Fisher, business, noted that some faculty members are concerned that such a post-tenure review will be used to get rid of older faculty. This concern is notable in light of the January 1, 1994 abrogation of mandatory retirement at 70 for state employees. The senate then voted to refer investigation of post-tenure review to Development and Evaluation.

Fisher reported on the October 29, 1990 meeting of the Council on Pensions and Insurance. One of the major issues discussed was the possibility of offering multiple retirement programs for higher education faculty.

Anne LeCroy, arts and sciences, reported on the October 20 THEFA meeting in Nashville. She noted that the meeting devoted a great deal of attention to adjunct faculty in TBR schools. TBR schools use adjunct faculty for a few major reasons. Emergency use (illness or death of a full-time faculty member) and taking advantage of an individual's special talent or field of knowledge constitute the most common reasons for hiring adjunct faculty. There is, however, concern for those part-time faculty who are hired year after year to teach the same courses. These individuals have no insurance benefits, no representation in faculty senates, and fewer responsibilities and ties to the departments for which they teach. Another concern in regard to part-time faculty is whether they are being hired to replace retiring faculty.

The THEFA meeting produced some recommendations on adjunct faculty. Among these recommendations are the following: 1) colleges and departments should have a handbook for adjunct faculty in particular; 2) schools should clarify their policies on hiring and evaluating part-time faculty; 3) adjunct faculty need to have more input into what they teach; and 4) the question of representation for adjunct faculty is an important one which needs to be investigated further.

After discussion of some of the concerns about adjunct faculty, Bentley moved that Academic Matters investigate the status and role of adjunct faculty at ETSU. The motion was seconded and then approved by the senate.

Carol Gordon, nursing, reported on the activities of the Development and Evaluation Committee. She explained that the committee had been looking at the SAL again, and was particularly concerned with the security of the separate written comments. The committee also is addressing concerns about some of the questions on the SAL.

LaFollette, Concerns and Grievances, reported on that committee's work on the university's policy on grievances. He explained that the policy, developed by Human Resources, was put into effect last year without the knowledge of key university personnel. In fact, TBR never adopted the policy. Problems with the policy came to light this year, and concerns and grievances decided to try to rectify these problems. After making its recommendations, the committee consulted with the university attorney who, it appears, agreed with these recommendations. Policy changes include the setting up of new time limits within which to file grievances and the rewriting of selected passages to get rid of the impression that a grievance can only be filed if the complainant is willing to file a law suit. Since TBR wants the policy by its next meeting in December, time is of the essence in completing these alterations.

Faculty Handbook. Margaret Houglund, medicine, asked about the status of the handbook on faculty policies. Riser noted that Anne Sherrill, Office of Academic Affairs, is working on completing this handbook. Questions then arose about the other faculty handbook which dealt with faculty benefits and the like. It seems that although much work has been done on this handbook, it is still in limbo.

Bentley, Committee on Elections, put before the senate a motion on holding elections for new senators in the spring. He asked that this motion be considered for adoption at the next senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS. Riser put before the senate the name of Beth Smith, nursing, for the chair of the University Tenure and Promotion Appeals Committee. The senate voted unanimously to approve her as chair.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Ken James
Jim Pleasant
Bob Riser
Scott Beck
David Close
Mark Holland
Hugh LaFollette
Anne LeCroy
Ed Williams
Bill Fisher
Mary Lou Gammo

Charles Johnson
Al Lucero
Robert Davidson
Chris Ayers
Ernest Bentley
Katie Dunn
Rebecca Isbell
Mary Nelson
Marie Tedesco
Brad Arbogast
Bob Acuff

Margaret Houglund
Sue McCoy
Ahmad Wattad
Rosemary Brown
Carol Gordon
Beth Smith
Gene McCoy
Rebecca Nunley
Phil Scheuerman

ABSENT

Charles Parker
Christa Hungate (ex)
Dan Johnson
George Poole
Bill Campbell
Kenneth Ferslew
Elizabeth Williams
Virginia Adams
Saralyn Gold (ex)

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MOTION: That all schools/colleges should conduct their Senate elections near the end of the Spring semester rather than at the beginning of the Fall semester.

1. It appears that this will allow more time for nominations, consideration and election.
 2. It will allow each college to be fully represented at the Fall ongoing meeting of the Senate when committees are named and officers are elected.
 3. Acceptance of this motion is intended to empower the Senate President to meet with the Deans to negotiate the implementation of the Spring elections.
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INFORMATION RESOURCES COUNCIL
Summary of 11/15 meeting

- 1) TBRNET - In January, all TBR schools will be connected by TBRNET, a statewide communications system linking DEC administrative computers.
- 2) Network Standard - The council voted to adopt the Novell Network as the standard for token ring servers. With regard to who pays to update software chosen before any standard is adopted, the general consensus was that updates should be considered as part of the cost of establishing a standard.
- 3) Proposed policy on use of university equipment at non-university locations - The policy was not accepted. Discussion indicated that current TBR regulations were adequate and another step in the process was unnecessary. The attitude of the Council was that responsibility for the equipment rests with departmental chairs.
- 4) October revision - No funds were approved for computer equipment.
- 5) Computer equipment review - John Quigley was reappointed chair for 1991-92. Committee membership will remain the same as last year.
- 6) Software funding source - Problems regarding the funding for software (supplies) was discussed. When a new computer is requisitioned (equipment), monies should accompany the requisition for the operating software. The criteria classifying equipment and supplies at the TBR level is the source of the problem.
- 7) Policy on information access - A subcommittee of the Information Resources Council is being established to set the policy for access to on-line information. The level of access to information available from FRS (payroll/budget) and HRS (personnel) files will be delineated. (Should users be limited to information relative to their area only or should they have unlimited access?) Deans and chairs need to convey the types of information they need about students, personnel, budget, etc.