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1989 March 6 - Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 6, 1989

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by president Anne LeCroy at 3:45 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motions were made to approve the minutes of January 23, February 6 and February 20. Recommendations for changes were noted and the minutes were subsequently approved.

Announcements

Announcements were made regarding the Executive Committee meeting March 10, at 3:30 p.m. as well as the March 13 meeting with Dr's Beller and Alfonso at 3:30 p.m. Any concerns should be forwarded to the Executive Committee prior to March 8 to be placed on the agenda. In addition, the SBR meeting at Jackson State on March 16 and 17 was mentioned. Their was discussion about the agenda and the issue of summer pay.

Anne LeCroy mentioned that a letter was being prepared to send out to the University's Standing Committees to have their final reports to the Senate by June 1.

The senate was reminded of the vote on the constitution and the need to have this finalized by March 31. Concern was voiced over the best method to distribute the constitution so all faculty in a department will be assured of access. The method of choice for distribution was left up to the senator of each college.

Bill Fisher presented several documents for the senate to review. The initial document discussed, concerned the suit by the Washington County School Board against ETSU. The next document dealt with the new measured adopted by the federal government which designates the metric system as the preferred system of weights and measures for U.S. trade and commerce. It also, mandates that all federal agencies to use the metric system by 1992. There were two documents dealing with inflation and how the government spends our money.

He also pointed out that it is time to submit recommendations for the standing committees.

There is a bill being introduced that would give a 25% discount for tuition of certified public school teachers if they attended a state institution.

At the legislative breakfast, Senator Greer was quoted, "that there would be a 4% cross the board living raise." However this raise does not relate to higher education just state employees.

Committee Reports

Concerns and Grievances:

They have prepared a questionnaire over the revised

calendar and classroom minutes. This one page document will be submitted to the senate at the March 20 meeting.

Elections Committee:

Margaret Hougland reiterated the need to vote on the revised Constitution and By-Laws. The second item dealt with the election of new senators. Letters will be sent out to the deans reminding them to the seats that need to be filled. The numbers are as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>E/I faculty</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Appl'd Sci & Techn.	32	no change
Arts and Sciences	167	no change
Business	47	no change
Education	75	no change
Library	15	no change
Medicine	96	lose 1 senator
Nursing	22	lose 1 senator
Public & Allied Health	45	no change

If anyone has questions regarding information about these figures or information on which senator's term will expire, they can contact Margaret.

Other committee reports were reserved until the March 20 meeting to leave time for Dr. Nutter's presentation.

Program

Dr. Nutter was introduced and spoke on the issue of grade inflation. It was pointed out that this issue is not just a university issue. Statistics reveal that grades have gone up everywhere over the last four years. She made particular reference to a handout that rated areas by department and the amount of high, A grades, that were given for the Fall. It was pointed out that a similar review of grades for Spring of 88 showed a similar pattern. Her concern dealt with the issue of how many A's were given and in what context. If an A grade becomes routine, why not just use pass/fail or some other designation upon completion of the course. Dr. Nutter expressed the feeling that the issue did not lay with one department. It was a campus wide issue. Some courses might suggest, because of their style of grading, would make it easier to receive an A, such as a practicum.

Concerns over the withdrawal policy were expressed. It was pointed out that students could "shop around" for the instructor that gave the best grades. Within this context it was noted that a student could attend class for most of the semester and still be allowed to drop-out. Dr. Nutter commented on this fact and stated that she felt that any capable student would know very soon into the semester if they were in the wrong class.

Dr. Nutter went over several items on a handout that she has noted over the years. These items she feels may be encompass some of the reasoning behind faculty giving higher grades.

After all was said, it was still the faculty members responsibility to define the percentages and grade values to the

student. Reference was made to handouts of articles by Anthony Biglan and how he did a study concerned with the severity of grading and the academic area. There seemed to be some correlation between these academic areas and grades given.

Faculty pointed out that students still require there to be some effort to make the higher grades.

Adjournment

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

Attendance

Attended

Jim Pleasant
Etta Saltos
Suzanne Smith
Christa Hungate
Anne LeCroy
Edwin Williams
Al Tirman
Paul Walwick
Charles Johnson
Bill Fisher
George Granger
Al Lucero
Ernest Bentley
Mary Nelson
Charles Beseda
Bill Campbell
Margaret Hougland
Sue McCoy
Mitchell Robinson
Donald Ferguson
Rosemary Brown
Richard Verhegge
Joyce Bassham
Katherine Dibble
Saralyn Gold
Gene McCoy
Al Iglar
Werner Waldron
Marie Tedesco
Wilsie Bishop

Absent

Charles Parker
David Close
Colin Baxter
Karen Renzaglia
Hugh LaFollette
Jean Frazier
Don Jones
Bob Acuff
Clark Gillett
Brunhilde Tober-Meyer

Respectfully Submitted

Werner Waldron