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Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: March 20, 1989

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by president Anne LeCroy at 3:23 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 6. Recommendations for changes were noted and the minutes were subsequently approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Fisher reported on the solvency of the senate. An additional \$710.00 was approved for the senate's budget (1988-1989). This money will be used to defray expenses needed for travel to the symposium on faculty governance.

Announcements

1. University Council planning committee will meet March 24.
2. University Council will meet April 4.
3. Executive Committee meeting with Dr's Beller and Alfonso, April 12 at noon.
4. Executive Committee will meet Friday, April 7 at 3 p.m.

Committee Reports

Jim Pleasant reported on the Research Committee's recommendations concerning sabbaticals and editorial changes.

Part I item 1. The committee feels that the year 2011 is too long to wait for instituting a system for sabbatical leaves. In keeping with other parts of the report the committee feels that a system could be in place by 1993. The next area of concern, part I item 2, dealt with the area of "mutual trust." Their recommendation was either to delete the paragraph dealing with this concept or replace it with a statement which outlines a planning process for sabbatical leaves. A motion was made to adopt the recommendations. During the discussion Dave Logan responded positively to the recommendations. However, he expressed some concern about deleting the mutual trust statement. The task force wanted a statement that would allow a certain amount of flexibility, not one that would be so "iron clad" that the atmosphere for sabbaticals would be restrictive. He outlined the current situation involving the Task Force as being in a hiatus awaiting future direction from the Commission. In addition he responded to a question about whether it is possible to have sabbatical leaves at ETSU. He quoted Dr. Beller as stating that "sabbatical leaves are entirely up to each department." Getting the sabbatical is not so much a problem as the financial burden created by the departments who would allow their faculty to take them.

A vote on the recommendations dealing with Part I, items 1 and 2 was taken and the motion carried.

The next document, part II, dealt mainly with editorial

concerns. Item 1 considered ETSU's audience Southern Appalachia. The Committee recommended this be changed to include ETSU's national and international commitments. Item 2 deals with the concern for "scholarly and creative activity expectations. The committee recommended that a statement follow these expectations dealing with the need to reduce teaching loads which is alluded to later on in the report. Item 3 discusses the requirement of continuing education and the ability of the faculty to serve in a competent role without it. The committee recommended that a statement immediately follow this addressing the need for the University to support faculty in their developmental activities.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations as stated. No discussion followed and the vote carried the motion. Dave Logan expressed his thanks to the senate for the effort expended in evaluating the Task Force Interim Report.

Al Lucero reported that a recommendation was submitted to the Academic Matters Committee to include (+) pluses and (-) minuses when reporting grades. The actual values for these changes had not yet been agreed on and the concern about what problems would be created with the current computer system's handling of this new type of grade was discussed. There was a feeling that this change may help curb grade inflation. The committee supported the preliminary report. Anne LeCroy suggested that the committee further evaluate the grade inflation issue.

Richard Verhegge reported on the memo to be presented to the faculty at large from the Concerns and Grievances Committee. This memo addressed the issue of changes to the academic calendar. A survey included in the memo is to determine the opinions and concerns about these changes. An additional concern was presented at this time regarding dismissing of classes on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving. A similar discussion had been held with Dr. Beller on this issue by the Executive Committee and his response was for the Faculty Senate to forward a recommendation to the Academic Council for discussion and vote.

A formal motion was made by Bill Fisher that a recommendation be forwarded to Academic Council from the Faculty Senate that the Administration consider eliminating the Wednesday evening classes, before Thanksgiving and close the University by 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded. There was only one dissenting vote and the motion carried.

Program

Dr. Paul Fendt reported on the progress of the Bachelor of General Studies. SBR has approved the Bachelor of General Studies and it was forwarded to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC is expected to vote sometime in May of 1989. Approximately 36 students have met the current requirements for acceptance. The initial thoughts were to accept only 10 or 12 students. Since there appears to be a higher pool of qualified applicants a staggered admissions

process will be used. A question regarding whether the institution should promote this concept since other institutions were promoting similar programs. Dr. Fendt stated that they already had enough applicants for the first year and a half so they do not plan to do any promoting. The admission process for any applicant to this program is the same as currently required by ETSU of any applicant. The real flexibility of the degree is in the last two years. The student will develop a learning plan based on their own career of personal goals and the curriculum offered at ETSU. Concern was expressed over how these students would meet the new 1989 SBR requirements.

Committee on Committee is accepting nominations for the various standing committees.

Anne LeCroy discussed the University High situation and how it was being reported in the local media. An additional area of concern deals with the committees documenting what has taken place during the year and making sure a summary is forwarded to the senate.

New Business

The Counsel for the SBR will be present on April 3 to meet with the Faculty Senate.

Adjournment

The senate was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Attendance

Attended

Jim Pleasant
Etta Saltos
Christa Hungate
Hugh LaFollette
Colin Baxter
Anne LeCroy (Pres)
Edwin Williams
Karen Renzaglia
Al Tirman
Paul Walwick
Bill Fisher
George Granger
Al Lucero
Ernest Bentley
Mary Nelson
Margaret Hougland
Mitchell Robinson
Donald Ferguson
Rosemary Brown
Richard Verhegge
Joyce Bassham
Katherine Dibble
Saralyn Gold
Gene McCoy
Werner Waldron
Al Iglar
Marie Tedesco

Absent

Charles Parker
Suzanne Smith
David Close
Charles Johnson
Charles Beseda
Bill Campbell
Jean Frazier
Don Jones
Bob Acuff
Sue McCoy
Clark Gillett
Brunhilde Tober-Meyer