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**MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF MAY 20, 1991
(SPECIAL CALLED MEETING)**

The Faculty Senate of East Tennessee State University met in the auditorium of the D.P. Culp Center in a special called session to discuss the question of confidence in the academic and fiscal leadership of the administration of President Ronald E. Beller. Faculty Senate President Bob Riser called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.. A quorum was present. Approximately 200 additional faculty members attended the meeting.

Margaret Hougland, medicine, proposed that the rule of order be suspended to allow other (non-senate) faculty to speak. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Riser recognized George Poole, mathematics. He noted that he and Robert Acuff, medicine, and president-elect of the senate, have for the past two weeks been involved in discussions on the budget and on the academic and fiscal responsibilities of the Beller administration. Poole emphasized that recent discussions have focused on issues related to academics and to leadership, and not to Beller's relationship to the community. Poole also noted that his leadership role stemmed from his being both a faculty senator and the chair of the Council of Academic Chairs.

Poole explained that at the faculty meeting of May 10 he was the moderator because it was thought that he would be less controversial than Acuff, a member of the College of Medicine. It was hoped, Poole said,

that he would be able to focus attention on issues other than the confrontation between the Beller administration and the College of Medicine. Poole stressed that the confrontation between medical school Dean Paul Stanton and President Beller, and the medical school funding issue were only two issues among others of concern to many faculty at ETSU.

Poole explained that on Wednesday, May 15, he and Acuff decided to seek a meeting with Chancellor Otis Floyd to convey to him the concerns of faculty who met on May 10, and to explain that those faculty members were not malcontents, but responsible faculty who cared for ETSU. Although the chancellor was unable to meet with Acuff and Poole, Rich Rhoda, Vice-Chancellor for Business and Media Affairs, was able to meet with them. Acuff and Poole, together with Stanton and Larry Elkins, College of Medicine, traveled to Nashville. (Stanton and Elkins already had a scheduled meeting with Chancellor Floyd).

Poole then presented a resolution (attached as Resolution 1) which, he emphasized, attempted to keep the welfare of ETSU uppermost. The motion was seconded. Jim Pleasant, computer and information science, proposed an amendment in the form of a list of concerns, be added to Poole's resolution. Poole did not accept this as a friendly amendment; thus, if seconded the senate would have to vote on the amendment. Beth Smith, nursing, stated that this list of concerns was separate from Poole's resolution, and should be treated separately. Pleasant then agreed to withdraw his proposed amendment, and to have this list of concerns treated separately by the senate.

A number of senators and other faculty then spoke to Poole's resolution. Anne LeCroy, arts and sciences, commented on the seven proposals made by Beller at the May 17 faculty meeting/press conference. She noted that the proposals, overall, were commendable. The evaluations of the president and vice-presidents, she noted, has been proposed by the senate to President Beller a number of times in the past. Such evaluations should be carried out, she noted, with development and improvement as their main goals. The suggestion that regular meetings be held between the president appropriate vice-president, and dean or director with the faculty of each college, school or academic support unit, is long overdue. Follow-up on proposals and concerns (for example, with the Student Assessment Instrument, revision of the academic calendar, and the faculty handbook) has been difficult in the past. Perhaps this would improve with the suggested regular meetings. On the comprehensive review of the governance of the Faculty Senate and the University Council, LeCroy noted that the council should have been utilized in the recent budget crisis. President Beller, LeCroy noted, admitted that he should have used the council. Regular general faculty meetings also are a good idea, and have not been undertaken since the 1970s.

LeCroy went on to discuss the remainder of Beller's proposals. Total management review, she said, also is necessary, especially to consider why there has been attrition of faculty members, and increase in the number of administrators. LeCroy did not think that the 25-30 member Faculty Advisory Board proposed by Beller is needed, but that the Faculty Senate and the University Council are established to serve for advisement and governance. LeCroy also observed that if the eight-member executive committee of the senate has a hard time getting a meeting with the president, how will a new 25 member board be able to get regular meetings with him? Last, the proposal that the vice-presidents teach one course per year has been proposed in the past, and recently by the Chancellor. LeCroy closed by stating that she thought all the proposals made by Beller, except for the establishment of the Faculty Advisory Board, were good ones. But, all these measures have been available, and are not new proposals for ETSU.
