2014-2015 Faculty Senate

MINUTES—October 6, 2014

Faculty Senate—East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING:

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<td>October 20, 2014</td>
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FOLLOWING MEETING:

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<td>November 3, 2014</td>
<td>2:45 p.m.</td>
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Excused: Beth Baily, Bill Flora, Virginia Foley, Nick Hagemeier, Koyamangalath Krishnan, Paul Timir, Peter Panus, Deborah Ricker.

Absent: Leila Al-Imad, Doug Burgess, Sharon Campbell, Daryl Carter, Dorothy Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Helene Holbrook, Tod Jablonski, Mary Ann Littleton, Alan Peiris, Darshan Shah, Ahmad Watted.

Guests: Pat Van Zandt, Dean of Sherrod Library

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-president Epps called the meeting to order at 2:50pm

Vice-president Epps began the meeting by asking if there was a motion to approve the minutes with edits? Senator Brown moved to approve, Senator Campbell seconded. The minutes were approved without dissent.

Vice-president Epps asked for Membership reports from the SAI committee and the Faculty Development Committee. Senator Sharp stated that the SAI working group includes Susan Epps, Jill Hayter, Ken Kellogg, and herself. They had their first meeting to discuss what their goals are and develop a plan for looking at the SAIs. They want to find out how the SAIs are used in different programs, departments, and colleges for tenure and review and promotion. She asked if we have information on how the SAI is used in different departments and colleges to please send that to her. They are also looking into issues with the online SAIs, how to get
more participation, keeping the window for responding to SAIs open longer, and improving the questions to include student self-evaluation.

Senator Beeler asked if they have looked at shortening the SAIs. Senator Sharp replied that they have not gotten that far yet. This first meeting we simply talked through a lot of issues different experiences we have had.

Senator Brown reported that he is chairing the ad-hoc committee on re-establishing the Faculty Development Teaching and Learning Center. The committee members are Susan Epps, Allison Barton, Katherine Sharp, Amy Johnson, Joyce Duncan, Kim Hale, Myra Jones, Bethany Flora, Brian Maxson, and Kathy Campbell from the library. They will be meeting for the first time next week, but have been soliciting input regarding what faculty wants in regard to faculty development. He asked if we have anything we wish to share, please let him know.

Senator Schacht said that at one of the TUFS meetings this summer there was a representative from Tennessee Tech who talked about the assessment that Tennessee Tech uses for evaluating critical thinking. They do not use the California test of Critical Thinking that we use. They use an instrument that they developed that requires essay type responses that are then scored by groups of faculty. What they’ve done is combined the student assessment of critical thinking with a faculty development exercise because the activity of scoring these assessments improves faculty understanding of critical thinking and how to teach it. The other thing that is interesting is Tennessee Tech’s QEP is the same as ours. It is focused on critical thinking. If we wanted to have a faculty proposed QEP project that we do a head to head comparison with what we’re doing and what Tennessee Tech is doing we could submit that. If we’re going to be taking engineering students from Tennessee Tech, that might be a natural population to do that comparison with.

Senator Masino stated that he has been told that we approached Tennessee Tech and asked for a copy, but because of their accolades there was an issue that they don’t want to give it away for free because they may be able to copyright it and start selling it. Senator Schacht replied that if we have students who are dually enrolled, we just back into it that way.

Senator Glenn stated that this critical thinking exam stuff is highly suspect. He was involved in a study some time ago where they used the standardized critical thinking exam called the ARNET exam. They gave it to people of all different levels and found that people with Associates Degrees had far more critical thinking ability than Bachelors and Bachelor’s more than PhD’s. It was absolutely upside down. Those findings were published.

Vice-president Epps moved to the agenda item regarding an update on the issue with the Biology change of grade from Senator Alsop. Senator Alsop began by stating that this is a pretty sensitive issue in his department so he invited his colleagues to sit together and go over a draft that he had written and they have done that. He said that he would read the short draft so that he would get the wording right.

In the summer of 2014, two students in a freshman biology class were accused of cheating by the instructor. Both confessed their guilt but pressed the issue of receiving a grade of F for the
course further up the administrative chain. The department and instructor of record remain most concerned that the 2012 TBR Policy on Institutional Disciplinary Rules and ETSU Policies and Procedures on Student Conduct and Rights, and the ETSU’s Academic Integrity and Ethics task force report filed in 2012 were not fully followed or at least are not clear with the regard to the instructor. We are dismayed at the failure to communicate to the department or the instructor the decisions on sanctions that were decided upon until after they had been awarded. The failure to communicate is the key issue here, as was the students being afforded the opportunity to drop the course. The instructors in the department of Biological Sciences have no wish to indulge in a blame game. Mistakes that were made in the interpretation of the existing policies concerned with enrollment of the instructor and sanctions appropriate to misconduct are both subject to different interpretations. Decisions made are history and the department wishes only to move forward. We seek to have ETSU’s current policies on academic misconduct revised and clarified. To this end, the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences is working as a member of an ad hoc committee that includes Dan Brown, Gordon Anderson, and Jeff Howard to clarify the wording and the procedures of the current policies used by the college. It is our wish that this case be a catalyst for moving all levels of review.

Senator Alsop asked if there were any questions.

Senator Masino asked if the instructor caught the students cheating and wanted to give them an F for the course and then they were able to get out of it because something that wasn’t in the syllabus, or if they just appealed.

Senator Alsop replied that they were able to get out of it because both parents of one student pushed it through to the chair of Biological Sciences, then to Gordon Anderson who gave it to Dan Brown as his prerogative and he thought it eventually made it to the Provost’s office. It was decided that the F for the course, even though that was in the syllabus, was too outrageous a fine for being caught cheating. So they were given the option of taking one letter grade lower, or dropping the course, which they did.

Senator Masino commented that there were some issues in the College of Business last year. He personally caught three students cheating. He said that the student admitted to him that she cheated, she admitted to the department chair she had cheated, went into the appeal board and they said it was too harsh a penalty and they reduced it. So they put more strict language in their syllabus to avoid the issue. Senator Alsop replied that the language on this syllabus was very specific. The students did not do a formal appeal. They just got parents involved.

Senator Schacht stated that his understanding of the communication issue here is that in part because there was not a formal appeal; the students never had to go on record with any particular story about what happened. So they were in a position where different stories could be told to different people. It is possible, based on what some of the administrators have said that that is exactly what happened because the provost was unaware that the issue here was cheating. He thought it was simply the students were signing in and misrepresenting attendance using clickers to do that. They used the clickers to sign in, but they also used the clickers to take exams, and the provost didn’t know about that. Because there was no formal
process and no requirement that the students make a statement, the whole thing was open to lots of miscommunication.

Senator Beeler commented that the notion of academic misconduct was discussed at his departmental meeting at the beginning of the semester and one of his colleagues had the concern that our current honor policy has little or no teeth to it. For instance, in the student handbook and the catalog it makes reference to TBR policy, and then if you want to know what TBR policy is you have to go to another document to find it. The problem with any honor policy is that it only works if the students are buying into it.

Senator Sellers asked that at any point someone up the food chain can change a grade that he has issued to a student? Because if that’s policy, that needs to be changed. Senator Schacht agreed. He said that what happened here didn’t involve a change of grade; it involved change of registration status. It was a very legalistic solution. Senator Sellers asked if there was a formal process if a student who isn’t accused of cheating wants to appeal their grade. Senator Schacht replied yes, but they didn’t follow it in this case. Senator Beeler added that the grade appeal process is a little bit different from the academic misconduct process. For instance, if you accuse a student of academic misconduct, the burden of proof is on you to show that the student cheated. If, on the other hand, a student appeals a grade, the burden of proof is on the student to show that the grade was assigned in a capricious manner. Senator Schacht commented that in this case, it would have been a grade appeal because the student had confessed to misconduct. Senator Alsop added that they both confessed to being guilty. The instructor felt bound because she put the information in her syllabus, 'If you’re caught cheating in any way, it is an F for the course'. She thought she had to back up her syllabus.

Senator Masino said that he thought TBR policy said once a faculty member accuses a student of cheating; the student is barred from dropping a course. Senator Alsop replied that this was past the drop date and no communication came back to the department as to what consequence had been given to the student.

Senator Byington made a motion to table this conversation until after Dean Van Zandt speaks. Senator Brown seconded the motion. Vice-president Epps introduced Dean of Sherrod Library Van Zandt.

Dean Van Zandt began be saying she appreciated the opportunity to tell us what’s going on in the library and talk a little about some of the challenges they face. “We have a great staff. We’ve been able to accomplish a lot. Briefly, we provide information. We have a new information desk what we used to call the reference desk in the front area. We provide information of all kinds, from very basic to assistance with complicated reference materials and information.” She said they also provide instruction for our classes.

She said that they provide Interlibrary loans. “We provide really good service as far as articles go. It is sort of slow service as far as books go because we depend upon a courier system and that takes a while. Get it Now is a new product that we have that allows us to get articles from many publishers usually in a couple of hours. The other thing that we have that you are most interested in is collections. We get our money for collections from a couple of different places.
We do have some Technology Access Fee funds that allow us to buy databases and electronic products. We have some private funding, but very little. That’s an area we would like to develop. We have a grant from Gale Databases which is one of our vendors that provides us with primary research materials and some major collections.”

She said that the building was built at the end of the 20th century and it’s a 20th century library. “We’ve been trying to make some changes in the building so that we can make it more useful for the students we have now. As the 20th century library was built for the collections, there’s a lot of book stacks and there are a lot of offices. There are not a lot of open spaces that you see now in buildings.”

“We have a student library fee that started this past year. It’s a ten dollar per semester fee. If you wanted to come any time before 2 a.m. during the week, you can get in. The student library fee funds security guards, custodial and G.A.s to keep the building open during those times. Ten dollars doesn’t sound like a lot, but about around 3/5 of it goes to fund the extended hours. Therefore, we have a little extra money to work with. We’ve done some things to the building that the students have wanted. One of the things we did this year was put in a silent study. It is an absolute silent space. We also have another space called the active learning lounge. Students can come up to this desk and plug up their laptops, phones, iPads, and it displays on the screen in front of them. We’ve had several study groups come in and use this. This whole area is filled with moveable furniture, tables, chairs, whiteboards, everything. It’s a really popular space and people are in there all the time.

“The other thing the library fee was meant to do was enable interlibrary loans for students so they wouldn’t have to pay a fee. We have added a kick scanner. It’s a walk up scanner where you can scan to email or flash drive and it will scan things in different formats. You can essentially scan in an article and it will convert it to an audio file. We have self-service DVD dispensing. It is like a Redbox, but is not a Redbox. The student can scan the case of the DVD they want and it will dispense it to them.

“Future plans for our fee include being open 24/7 during dead week and exams. Even though we have the 24 hour area that’s always open, students really wanted the library building to be open during dead week. We also are going to refresh our 24 hour study. We may be furnishing some of the group studies areas we have.

“We’re buying a new collection of electronic books. We’re going to the principle called Patron Driven Acquisition. Essentially, we have a bunch of electronic records in our catalog and the first time somebody looks at a particular book, that book will be purchased for us through Patron Driven Acquisition. It’s a relatively new principle that ensures what we’re purchasing is actually being used.

“There is in the building an exact reproduction of Jimmy Quillen’s office. We recently moved the memorabilia to the Reece museum. We’re hoping to use that space as a presentation and meeting space that anybody on campus can use. You were just talking about a faculty center of some sort. One of our goals in the library is to bring more faculty into the building. We have a lot
of space that can be reconfigured and maybe reused in different ways. We’re very interested in talking with you all about possibly being a space or location for a faculty space on campus.

“We’ve been doing a lot of outreach. We want to showcase what goes on at ETSU. We’re trying to partner with other people on campus as well. Last February we brought Scott Nelson. He spoke on his search for the real John Henry and he happens to be a financial historian so he talked about financial crisis.

“Gale Databases has given us an undergraduate research award. We worked with the Honors College on this. It is a $2500 award for three years in a row with no cost to us other than trialing their databases which is also of benefit to us. We have been trying to do some fundraising for student employee scholarships. We managed to give $500 scholarships to three of our student employees this year. We were really pleased to do that.

“Last Friday, we had a celebration of ETSU authors. Nobody knows what kind of research is going on at this university. There is no centralized database of who has written what or anything like that. We called every department chair and administrative assistant on campus and asked who has published a book or major work in the past 5 years. We contacted those folks and there were 23 authors who came to the celebration, brought their book, talked with their colleagues and with community members. It was a really nice event.

“We have created a student advisory council. They come from all areas of campus and are students of all ages. they give us feedback, input, advice, and help us prioritize our library. We also have a faculty advisory council. It has been in existence for a year and they meet twice a semester. Their charge is to facilitate communication between the library and the faculty, to advise us about materials and services, encourage partnerships, and advocate for us on campus.

“Over the course of this year we’re going to be moving from our current library system to a brand new system. We were part of the federation of libraries in this area which includes public libraries for almost 8 years and that federation is disbanding. We will be moving to a new system and when it is done, you will be pleased. It is going to be a much better system.

“Staffing is an issue. Over the last 10 years or so we have lost about 10 positions that we haven’t been able to fill. We do a lot with a few people, but we could do a lot more with more. Technology is an issue. Our budget is pitiful. We did some comparative expenditures when I first arrived, so this information is from 2011. Across all Tennessee State institutions, we are hovering just above community colleges as far as budget goes. This is why last year when we had our 1.5% across the board budget decrease, it hit the library hard because the only place we could take it is from our materials budget. The one nice thing is the Tennessee electronic library which comes out the state system provides us with a lot of electronic resources that are suited primarily for undergrads. Undergrads are fairly well covered, graduate programs are not.”

Dean Van Zandt asked that if we feel strongly that the library needs support from the institution, advocate for us and support us in any way.
Senator Schacht commented in regards to the figure on appropriations showed for 2011, ETSU is at the bottom of every 4 year institution in the state. He asked if you projected that back for the last decade, has our position changed. Senator Van Zandt replied that the library has had a flat budget over the last decade, but electronic products particularly have had large cost increases every year.

Senator Schacht asked if TBR moved on this idea that it has been floating around for a long time about sharing resources across the entire system, how would that affect us? Dean Van Zandt replied that Dr. Denley is quite interested in some kind of TBR library consortium, but she did not know what his concept of funding it is.

Senator Stone asked if the library has audio books. Dean Van Zandt replied yes, on CD’s; we don’t have an online collection.

Senator Stone said that in the College of Medicine, they generally don’t write entire books. They have many people who are editors, and publish chapters of books. Could they be included in the author’s events? Dean Van Zandt responded “absolutely, all we need to do is get coordinated with the College of Medicine.”

Senator Schacht asked when ETSU gets an external research grant and there are funds allocated in that for indirect costs, does any part of that get earmarked for the library? Senator McDowell said that he asked that question of Bill Duncan and he said it was 6% of indirect costs from research grants go to the Sherrod Library. Senator Schacht asked if we know how that percentage compares to the percentage of indirect costs that go to the library at other institutions like UT. Dean Van Zandt said that she did not know but could try to find out.

Senator Schacht said we’re going to have the collaborative arrangements with other institutions where we are going to be joined in awarding degrees, will that move in the electronic resources of their library to ETSU faculty? Dean Van Zandt replied that they are working on that. It may in Engineering and Nursing. We have to work that out with the other institution.

Senator Sellers stated that he had a question about access over the summer. The graduate students didn’t have access when they weren’t taking classes and now he thinks that in his department they do. Dean Van Zandt said that they worked that out. Senator Sellers asked if it was the same for undergrad students. Dean Van Zandt said that they have to be enrolled for the fall in order to have access during the summer.

Senator McDowell said that Biology has just had a database cancelled that they’ve had for many decades in print and since 1994, in electronic copy. These databases used to cost $15,000 a year for the print copy and they almost doubled when they started selling the print and electronic versions. Now they’re around $35,000 a year. Maybe we could have some access to budget details about annual costs for journals and databases before they are canceled and before it is too late for us to start lobbying when that budget can no longer sustain a database. Dean Van Zandt responded that it is a tricky situation. “For the electronic resources, we do have statistics on usage. For a smaller department or smaller number of researchers, statistics really often don’t matter to you that much because if you need it, you just need it. We
try to use that when we’re evaluating whether we need to keep something or not. Biological Abstracts is one of our most expensive and lesser used ones. It is not perfect information but it is the best information we have.” Senator McDowell replied that we need some sort of a spreadsheet based document that we can tell what databases are out there and what they cost. In terms of the library’s research collection, he said the presentation was very good but it almost entirely concerned students. The library is also an important research facility. “We need to have more transparency about what you have and what you’re paying for so that we can try to help protect the resources we need.”

Senator Campbell commented that regarding cost, particularly journals and different packages, she works on the collection development and it is more complicated than you would imagine. Senator McDowell replied that the databases would be a start and they would probably have discrete costs. Journals are a larger issue. Still if we don’t know about these things, it is very difficult for us to participate in advocating for their maintenance.

Senator Alsop asked that with regard to the comparison figures across the state, where would the dean like to be money-wise. What would it take to have a library that is efficient and works as it should? Dean Van Zandt replied probably about three times where we are now.

Senator Stone asked if there is a possibility we could record some of the artists involved in the performing arts center that is getting constructed and make CD’s to purchase through the library. Dean Van Zandt said that she is ok with that. She would like to say something about football. She went to a library development conference a couple of years ago and there a development officer for the library from Duke University there who said that his dean had made a deal with the athletic director and for every home basketball ticket that was sold, they donated a dollar to the library. That’s a sizeable amount. Those partnerships can be formed.

Senator Hemphill commented that it bothers him when you’re saying we’re putting our faculty in Biology at a competitive disadvantage for recruitment, potential faculty, and then graduate students. All we have to do is we design the way that we approach that as an institutional resource. Senator Schacht offered an analogy that exists right now in the College of Medicine. When the school was created and its mission was made to be Primary Care, everybody realized that in other medical schools, Primary Care gets cannibalized by specialties. To prevent that from happening here, Primary Care is funded independently from the rest of the College of Medicine. It gets an appropriation directly from the state. If funding from libraries came straight from TBR, then every time there is budget problem on this campus they couldn’t say “we’ll just take it away from the library because they’re not going to scream too loud.”

Vice-president Epps asked if there were any further questions for Dean Van Zandt. She thanked the dean for coming to speak with the senate. Dean Van Zandt thanked the senate for inviting her to speak.

Senator Byington moved to resume discussion on academic misconduct. Senator Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved without dissent.
Senator Hayter asked if there was no formal record made of the misconduct. Senator Alsop replied that the students were allowed to drop the course. Senator Hayter asked isn’t the instructor required to file for academic misconduct. Was that done? Senator Alsop replied that is was done and he can tell you the person that it went to. Senator Hayter said that if she was the professor, she would want to know what happened to that file that she made that should be on the student’s record. Even if there was a grade change, there should still be a strike on those two students’ records that said this happened.

Senator Brown commented that that sentiment is not shared by a great many people in the administration. There should be some blemish on their record that we can access through Banner or other means. Senator Byington said that across the nation it is the norm, not the exception that misconduct not be reported. We are in the norm of not recording things like this.

Senator Stidham asked didn’t UVA pass a law that they had to put that on the student record? Senator Byington said that he looked at UVA Wise’s website; they actually have stopped short of putting it on the student’s record. What they say is that the file is maintained for 5 years after the student leaves the university. So it is discoverable from a legal standpoint for 5 additional years. We’re talking about it from an academic standpoint, but there is an even broader discussion on what should appear on a student’s record from suspensions to social sanctions.

Senator Masino said that there are policies and procedures in place at the university. Obviously they went outside policies and procedures here. Do we have the ability to have an investigation done?

Senator Schacht replied that the only mechanism he is aware of is the University Grievance Policy. The way that policy works is such that it would be very difficult to apply to the situation. The two limitations are first, the only person who would have standing to make a grievance would be the affected faculty member. The second thing is there is a 20 day statute of limitation from the time that it happens until you bring the grievance. Something that could make sense in a situation like this where we’re dealing with something that’s gotten a much broader policy and implications would be for this body to look at the possibility of expanding the grievance policy such that an entire department faculty could have standing. The second issue he would like to suggest we think about is to mark transcripts to indicate academic misconduct. One way of doing it, which is very simple, is to simply adopt a code modifier that goes next to any grade or transcript action that indicates in occurred in the context of or result of some academic misconduct.

Senator Beeler said if you have something in the transcript like that for many transcripts it would be buried in a line somewhere. Someone would have to read through the transcript to find it. He would suggest having something where their GPA and their Major states they were found guilty of academic misconduct.

Senator Schacht added that the UT Chattanooga faculty senate debated and adopted a policy that any student found guilty of academic misconduct is barred categorically from receiving honors.
Senator Sellers asked was there a policy that the administration followed. The chair, dean, provost, everyone should have stopped and said there must be a complaint filed to discuss this. Senator Alsop said the instructor filed the misconduct with chair and dean’s office. Senator Sellers asked then it went to the provost? Senator Alsop said that it was his understanding that the parents of one of the students went to the provost’s office and at that point the discussion was on clickers and attendance. Senator Kellogg stated that we discussed this at executive committee. What he remembers is that the provost messed up. He never should have opened the door to that parent. Senator Sellers asked if the policy is ok. Senator Alsop replied that the policy is ok. Senator Hayter said that policies are only as good as they are enforced. Senator Kellogg said that the point is he did not have the facts. He never should have opened his door to that parent. He should have said, “I can’t talk to you. I don’t know the facts. You’re telling me the facts on one side.”

Senator White commented that he didn’t think this is uncommon in a system where money is more important than academic integrity. No honor policy has any teeth unless we are buying into it at the university level. Do we have anything as a senate body to censure people who run afoul of policy? Can we launch an investigation? Can we ask for a person to come in and address the policy themselves?

Senator Glenn said that he would like to suggest if we go that route instead of having them come in front of us like this is some sort of trial, just send a letter of inquiry first saying it came to the attention of the faculty senate and we are concerned about it, could you please explain. For all we know right now, there could be a good explanation.

Senator Brown stated that we have already sat down with Dr. Bach at the executive committee level. The case never officially went to Dr. Bach. Dr. Anderson consulted him informally about this. Senator Alsop added that Dean Anderson was out of the loop. It was Anderson’s assistant, Dan Brown that handled the case. Senator Glenn asked if Dr. Bach admitted he fouled up. Vice-president Epps said that when the executive committee talked to him we actually raised the question about the cheating, because that was in the emails that we had gotten. He gave us a timeline for how things had happened and he didn’t mention anything about the academic misconduct for cheating. We brought it up and he did not know anything about it.

Senator Schacht stated that he would like to make a motion to put something on the agenda for the next meeting related to this. He would like us to consider three ideas that if adopted by this body could be pushed to become university policy. The first one is to expand standing in the grievance policy to department’s faculty. So if department’s faculty votes by a majority to bring a grievance, they can do so as a group. Primary advantage of that would be that to the extent the institution is relying more and more on faculty who do not have job security, if the department as a whole brings the grievance; it makes it more likely that thing can be addressed. The second idea would be to adopt some kind of a modifier that can be put on a transcript that can apply to any current transcript notation to indicate that it occurred in the context of academic misconduct. The third would be to follow the example of UTC and bar the award for honors from any students who have been found guilty of academic misconduct.

Senator Alsop seconded the motion.
Senator Beeler said that he would like to append it to include that if the student is found guilty of academic misconduct, they are not eligible for any university or faculty awards. Senator Schacht said that he accepts that as a friendly amendment. Senator Kellogg asked what constitutes being found guilty. Senator Schacht replied that there has to be a final determination by which either the student confessed or by them having gone through whatever university process there is for this and then reaching a determination after exhausting all appeals.

Vice-president Epps asked if there was any further discussion.

Senator Keith asked if we do this on the transcript, it is her understanding that Graduate Studies is doing the academic clean slate. Would that impact this? Senator Schacht said that he is simply asking for this to be on the agenda for the next meeting. That should give us time to think this through.

Vice-president Epps asked for the vote. The motion was approved without dissent.

Vice-president Epps said that when Dr. Noland was here at our last meeting, he went through a lot of things very quickly. After the meeting he expressed concerns that he had gone through information so quickly that there wasn't time for questions. Dr. Foley asked that if there is anything we would like for him to come back and address, that we raise that now. Senator White suggested he come to address issues on academic integrity. Senator Sellers stated that if we could see the presentation, maybe we could recall what he went through. Vice-president Epps replied that is on the senate website. Senator Byington suggested we review it before our next meeting, and then if there are items we would like to have more information on we'll bring it up at the next meeting and submit that to him. Senator Schacht stated that in light of the library presentation today, he would be interested in hearing the administration's perspective on our library funding. Senator Brown said he would add to that, is there a plan in place yet for funding the library under RCM if that is implemented. Senator Byington responded that he is on the Budget Process committee. The extent of discussion about the overhead areas that are not revenue generating - we have not gotten into any kind of level of detail of how they will be funded.

Vice-president Epps said that there was an item on the agenda that Senator Burgess was to present but he is not here. Senator Byington said that it was in regard to discussion on adjunct benefits. We don’t pay adjuncts particularly well; their perks are not great. As an information item for us to think about, an idea has come forward for us to push for our adjuncts to be able to take courses at ETSU that are offered for personal development such as technology, research, etc., that are not currently open to adjuncts. Would we as a body be supportive of making those opportunities open to our adjunct faculty?

Vice-president Epps said that Mike Hoff will be at our October 20 meeting. He did a presentation at Academic Council regarding retention and some of the data surrounding that. She asked if there were any other announcements.
Senator Alsop said that faculty senate was on the cusp four years ago for making a deal with Carnegie for a faculty club space that could also include faculty and staff. He would like to see that come back on the floor.

Senator McDowell said that he would like to put on the agenda some discussion on how the faculty senate disseminates the minutes and agendas to the departments. Vice-president Epps replied that at the retreat in August, different colleges got together to determine how that was to be handled by the college. Senator Shafer added that in the College of Arts and Sciences, she did go to the Dean’s office the thinking was it would be an e-mail a week if we sent out the agenda and minutes to the faculty. They were not interested in doing that. What they did do was put a link on the Arts and Sciences website under faculty resources that has all the Arts and Sciences representatives’ contact info and a link to the senate website that has the agenda and minutes on it.

Senator Brown moved to adjourn. Senator Sharp seconded the motion.

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

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Please notify Senator Melissa Shafer (shaferm@etsu.edu or 9-5837), Faculty Senate Secretary, 2014-2015, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or x96691).