

# 2013-2014 Faculty Senate

## MINUTES—February 17, 2014

Faculty Senate—East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING:	FOLLOWING MEETING:
February 24, 2:45 pm	March 3, 2:45 p.m.
Forum, Culp Center	Forum, Culp Center

*Present:* Dave Arnall, Beth Baily, Katie Baker, Patrick Brown, Doug Burgess, Randy Byington, Kathy Campbell, Bruce Dalton, Susan Epps, Virginia Foley, Allan Forsman, Rosalind Gann, Evelyn Hammonds, Tammy Hayes, Jill Hayter, Bill Hemphill, Ken Kellogg, Dharendra Kumar, Tom Laughlin, Mary Ann Littleton, Kurt Loess, Theresa McGarry, Lorianne Mitchell, Melissa Shafer, Kathryn Sharp, April Stidham, Bill Stone, Kim Summey, Jerry Taylor, Paul Trogen, Jennifer Vanover-Hall,

*Excused:* Sally Blowers, Deborah Ricker,

*Unexcused:* Robert Beeler, Jim Bitter, Sharon Campbell, Daryl Carter, Charles Collins, Tom Ecay, Mohamed Elgazzar, Keith Green, Nick Hagemeyer, Ron Hamdy, Fred Mackara, Jerome Mwinyelle, Alan Peiris, Kerry Proctor-Williams, Thomas Schacht, Taylor Stevenson, Jim Thigpen, Teresa Wexler, Shimin Zheng, Meng-Yang Zhu, Yue Zou.

*Guests:*

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Byington called the meeting to order at 2:45pm

President Byington began by asking Senator Foley to give a report on the Senior Staff meeting she attended that morning while he was at the Budget Process Committee meeting.

Senator Foley said that President Noland began the Senior Staff meeting by thanking Dr. Collins and Bill Rasnick for getting campus ready in the midst of all the snow for Thursday night's ball game. She reported that President Noland stated there is absolutely no reason to panic about the Governor Haslam's Tennessee Promise as the enabling legislation has yet to be introduced and that there are a lot of details to be worked out.

President Byington interjected that there is an article in the *Tennessean* and the Private Colleges and Universities of Tennessee have started their opposition campaign to the Tennessee Promise.

Senator Foley continued that President Noland spoke briefly on budget outlines and end of the year purchasing. There will be a memo out about that later this week. He believes that the deans and department chairs should be managing the money and the budget and so he'll ask them to be judicious in what they spend. They are stopping purchases on all renovations and

computer purchases, but there is no early close date. President Noland said that they have heard from faculty that have grants state that ending purchasing early really puts a hardship on them and so they're not going to do that. The governor proposed a cost of living raise but it is not funded for higher ed. We are down from 0.6 in state appropriations. Only two capital projects were funded, both of those were at the community college level. The good news is that takes two projects off the list. He said that UT had two projects on the list at the same place as our Fine Arts Center for which they had already raised 100% of their matching and those aren't going forward either. Apparently the only capital maintenance that has been approved for ETSU is elevator repair. There will be a fee increase to cover cost of living raise that was mandated. He doesn't know how much the fee increases will be. The only fee increase this year that the SGA has asked to go forward will be the \$5 for Little Bucs. The dates for Civility Week are April 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. The theme is Speak Your Peace. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a State of the Student Body address by SGA. For the first time ever, the THEC, TBR, and UT made a joint budget presentation to the legislature and there was much discussion that erupted from that regarding Tennessee Promise. ETSU Day on the Hill was held last year where students did presentations to the state legislators. It has been decided that due to the budget constraints ETSU Day on the Hill will happen every other year. So that won't be happening this year, but it will happen again next year. They are continuing fundraising for the Arts Building.

President Byington added that he met with the Staff Senate leadership and there is considerable support for our initiatives for an Ombudsman and they would like to participate in that initiative. There is also considerable concern among staff on the issue of bullying. From a legal standpoint, bullying legislation currently applies to protected minorities. However, there was a bill introduced in the State Senate and the Tennessee House that would extend those same protections to every individual. Staff Senate is hopeful that the bill will go forward. If it does every institution and employer will have to enact some policy on dealing with workplace aggression and bullying in the workplace.

President Byington moved to the action items on the agenda. He said that the first thing we have is the second round of the proposed changes to the bylaws and constitution. Senator Epps stated that the language currently states the executive committee shall be composed of at least 8 voting members and then lists 10 people -so a list of 8 that includes 10 doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Senator Epps proposed that the language be changed to the following, "The executive committee shall be composed of the following voting members including", which she said just takes out the number.

Senator Kellogg asked for the whole paragraph to be read out loud. Senator Epps read, "The composition of the executive committee shall be composed of at least 8 voting members, at least 3 at large members of the executive committee shall be elected by the senate from its membership by secret ballot each year after the new members of the senate are seated. No at large members shall be elected to the executive committee from a single college, school, or equivalent academic unit that already has more than 2 voting members."

President Byington asked if there was a motion to accept that amendment. Senator Loess moved to accept the amendment. Senator Taylor seconded. The motion carried with no dissent or abstentions.

President Byington said that a separate action is required for the revision to the constitution. The language would reflect the same change. He said that there is one additional step to what

we take today, and that is to distribute the proposed change to all full time faculty. He is in the process of working with the IT and HR folks to create an email list of all full time faculty that would not include adjuncts, etc. If IT and HR are unable to do that, the first question on the survey will be, 'are you a full time faculty member'. He asked if there was a motion to amend the constitution to put it in concert with the by-laws. Senator Burgess moved to accept the changes to the constitution. Senator Stone seconded. The motion carried with no dissent and no abstentions.

President Byington announced that the next agenda item is reports from the working groups currently working on priority issues.

Senator Loess reported that they are pretty close to getting something circulating on the Code of Ethics. He asked is there any connection with what we might pass and the current grievance being heard by the Ethics Committee? Senator Burgess replied no that the work of the Ethics Committee in regard to the current grievance was concluding. He stated that the chair of the committee, Dr. Richard Kortum had drafted a definition of ethics that the working group might find useful.

Senator Stone remarked that there is some issue over clinical ethics - which is a whole separate type of domain. He stated that we don't have expertise on the committee right now in clinical ethics. Senator Burgess asked if there was someone in the Medical School who has expertise in clinical ethics. He suggested that if there is an ethical clinician in the Medical School, the working group could ask for him or her to come and talk to them.

Senator Epps stated that Senators Mitchell and Bitter and she were on the Workload Working Group. They identified issues for further discussion which included things like online vs. in person classes, class size vs. number of courses, level of courses, intensives vs. non-intensive designations, permits being issued without permission of the instructor. She asked if anybody has anything else they would like to add to the list please send an email and they will add it. She said that they felt they needed to have discussions with the college liaisons, reps from the intensive committees, and representatives from GEAC. She continued that one of the questions that Dr. Schacht raised concerned issues with the College of Medicine, but the working group members felt that issues with the College of Medicine are so specific to the college and they are not knowledgeable about how MEAC works and how their workloads are adjusted. They believe that there probably needs to be a separate committee made up of people from the College of Medicine who understand those issues.

President Byington asked if there were any other updates. He announced that Dr. Noland will be visiting next week and asked for senators to email issues to him that we want the president to talk about.

Senator Epps motioned to adjourn, Senator Brown seconded and the motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

---

*Please notify Senator Melissa Shafer ([shaferm@etsu.edu](mailto:shaferm@etsu.edu) or 9-5837, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2012-2013, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess ([burgess@etsu.edu](mailto:burgess@etsu.edu) or x96691).*