



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	02/12/18	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Culp Center, Room 311
Next Meeting:	02/26/18	Scribe:			Eric Sellers
Present:	Alsop, Fred; Anand, Rajani; Brooks Taylor, Teresa; Brown, Patrick; Burgess, Doug; Byington, Randy; Chambers, Cindy; Cluck, David; Doran, Erin; Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Dorothy; Duncan, Joyce; Dunn, Andrew; Elangovan, Saravanan; Ellis, Jon; Epps, Susan; Flora, Bill; Foley, Virginia; Gray, Jeff; Hall, Katherine; Hemphill, Bill; Hendrix, Stephen; Kostrzewa, Richard; Kwasigroch, Thomas Liu, Ying; Livingston, James; Mackara, Fred; Marek, Greta; McGarry, Theresa; Mitchell, Lorianne; Mullins, Chrissy; Oh, Sunny; Olson, Nate; Owens, Bea; Pealer, Jennifer; Peterson, Jonathan; Pope, Victoria; Ramsey, Priscilla; Sarkodie, Olga; Sawyer, Robert; Scheuerman, Eugene; Sellers, Eric; Sergiadis, Ashley				
Absent:	Masino, Anthony;				
Excused:	Al-Imad, Leila; Campbell, Heidi; Chakraborty, Kaniska; Gentry, Retha; Littleton, Mary Ann; Panus, Peter; Paul, Timir; Short, Candice; Stone, Bill; Walden, Rachel				

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order

1. Introductions

2. Celebrations

3. Announcements

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Informational Items

6. Action Items

7. New Business

8. Old Business

9. Questions on reports/summaries from committees/working groups

10. Other Items

11. Comments from Guests

12. Adjourn

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1. Introductions

1.1 Ashley Bailey, a Pharmacy student on academic rotation, was present at the meeting.

1.2 Three guests from the Communications department were also present (names inaudible).

2. Celebrations

2.1 Ellis and his wife recently celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary.

2.2 **Epps** commented that the eagles have three eggs, which are expected to hatch in March. Epps also made mention of the men's basketball team who have the longest winning streak in the country.



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2.3 **Flora** informed the group that Olympic athletes training at ETSU have won medals.

3. Announcements

3.1 **Epps** announced that Laurence Ross will be on campus Monday, Feb 19 at 7PM. Anyone interested in diversity in the classroom should try to attend the lecture.

3.2 **Epps** informed the Senate that the Executive Committee will meet with President Noland on February 27 and questions or comments for him should be submitted to her.

3.3 The Open Forum will be in the East Tennessee Room on Wednesday, February 28th, 2:30PM. The forum will be live streamed on Face Book and questions can be submitted in advance until February 21st.

4. Approval of Minutes

Epps questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 1/29/2018 meeting.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

5. Informational Items

5.1 Non-student minors on campus policy – Jeff Howard

5.1.1 **Howard** informed the Senate that a new Non-Student Minor policy was approved last fall and is in effect pending final approval from the BOT. The policy details precautions University employees should take to make sure non-student minors are protected while on campus and at off campus ETSU sponsored events. All employees who have contact with minors will be subject to background checks, must register the program, and attend training. The policy does not apply to minors who are students at ETSU.

5.1.2 **Oh** questioned whether the policy applied to guests coming to music programs. **Howard** replied that it would only apply if extensive one-on-one contact will be encountered.

5.1.3 **Chambers** expressed concern that the policy was not broad enough and it should include adults with special needs. **Howard** explained that this was discussed and an additional policy that applies to special needs adults is needed.

5.2 Dealing with distressed students info - Rebecca Alexander

5.2.1 **Alexander** noted that the ETSU Counseling Center has had an increase in faculty contacting their office to express concerns about students because this is not an area of faculty expertise. Faculty can report concerns in a couple of ways. One is to complete a CARE report: https://etsu-advocate.symlicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid274564?. Another service available to students is the Bucs Press 2 service; students can contact a counselor 24/7 by dialing (423) 439-4841 and pressing 2. There is also an option called Let's Talk. Counselors are located across campus throughout the week and students can drop-in without an appointment. The Counseling Center will come to departments or colleges to present on the resources.

5.2.2 **Hemphill** questioned whether there is an equivalent to a CARE report for faculty. **Alexander** reported that she was not aware of such a report but she would ask about it.

5.2.2 **Mackara** explained that a colleague had someone in his class who was disturbed, but the faculty member was not informed. **Mackara** further questioned whether this information could be shared with faculty. **Alexander** replied that mental health information is very protected and that the care report is the best line of communication for classroom situations. **Ellis** added that in psychotherapy if a client says he/she is going to do something (threatens) another person, it is not an ethical decision; we have a legal obligation to warn that person. We have a duty to warn. **Chambers** also noted that the university has no right to reveal



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someone's disability and the disability must be self-disclosed.

5.3 Board of Trustees report – Alsop

There is not a current report.

5.4 SACS conference – Byington

5.4.1 A call to be a peer reviewer for SACS came out last fall and Byington applied for one of the positions. **Byington** reported that at the December meeting a vote was taken and each institution has one vote. There was a proposal to make significant changes to the accreditation standards, which was approved. The SACS standards were reduced from 50 pages to 14 pages. Some changes were for the better; however, much detail has been lost. One significant change is that the standards previously stated that 25% of upper division courses must be taught by an instructor with a terminal degree. The standard has been removed. Another significant change is that program coordinators are no longer required to be experts in the field.

5.5 TBR faculty sub-council meeting report – Hemphill

5.5.1 **Hemphill** reported that Andrew Dollar from TBR External Affairs discussed the TN government and bills that are being proposed. The Governor has proposed a 6% increase in higher education funding. A program called 'Compete to Complete' has been proposed. Students must complete 30 hours in the first 12 months or risk losing Tennessee Promise and Hope scholarships. There are also ready-made three-semester schedules for incoming freshman.

5.5.2 A bill is proposing to provide dual enrollment grants to students at community colleges.

5.2.3 There are several bills related to gun laws. All of these bills will be heard on February 14, 2018.

5.2.4 Another bill proposes to allow ASL count as a foreign language.

5.2.5 Gen Ed will be no more than six credits of humanities and three credits of economics.

5.2.6 The faculty staff 25-50% credit will only be applicable after the dependent has earned an Associate's degree through the Tennessee Promise program.

5.2.7 There are grant opportunities through the TN Holocaust Admission and course revitalization. There is also a universal design grant that is applicable for the universities. The RFP has been posted, applications are due on March 16, and awards will begin in July. The amount of the stipend covers benefits and can be up to \$2000.

5.2.8 Administrative withdrawal versus federal law. If a student misses more than three consecutive classes the faculty or administration can remove the student from class. Students would not necessarily know they have been removed from class and this can affect scholarships.

5.2.9 The high impact practices initiative is looking at comprehensive student records and coding in Banner for transcript recording.

6. Action Items

No new action items

7. New Business

7.1 **Epps** noted that the Executive Committee met with Diana McClay last fall to discuss a fitness for duty policy, which the university does not currently have in place. Doug Burgess has volunteered to lead a group to draft a policy. **Burgess** explained this policy would be applicable to people who are unable to fulfill their job requirements due to permanent or temporary incapacitation due to illness. Most universities have a fitness for



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duty policy and ETSU does not. Burgess requested that six or seven people volunteer to sit on the committee and the volunteers would not be required to be Faculty Senate members. Moreover, the policy is not intended to be punitive. The purpose is to help people in need.

7.2 Senate Election update. **McGarry** described a new Faculty Senate election policy. By February 15th each college will be informed of how many seats they need to fill. Senators from each college are responsible for publically eliciting candidates by the first Monday in March. The committee will build an electronic voting form. There will be a field on the form where each candidate can write a platform statement. Voting will open on the first Monday in April and close the third Monday in April. You can only vote once. In the event that there is a tie a runoff election will be held. Within some colleges, each department elects people. If this is the case, it is necessary to notify the election committee (send an email to McGarry).

8. Old Business

8.1 **Sawyer** questioned whether the stadium had been considered in the space utilization audit. Epps replied that she would ask Mike Hoff if this option had been considered. **Peterson** added that the classroom utilization committee also needs to include research utilization. Moreover, funded researchers have been told that they would be removed from their research space and the dean would be responsible for finding them new space. **Epps** replied that she would put the issue on the agenda for the meeting with Dr. Noland.

8.2 **McGarry** noted that there is a fundamental problem that needs to be addressed in regard to the classroom utilization committee. Dr. Bach thinks the classroom utilization committee has been disbanded and Dr. Noland thinks it has not. **Epps** replied that Dr. Bach disbanded the committee because they had not met for a year and that the ad-hoc committee that is currently meeting is not taking over the classroom utilization committee and that their charge is to inventory classroom space. The ad-hoc committee will compile a report that will go to a reconstituted space utilization committee. **McGarry** noted that this is an unacceptable set of events that sets a bad precedent for us not to protest. The fact that the committee chair did not convene the committee does not mean that the committees work is not necessary. It is unacceptable that a faculty committee be disbanded by Dr. Bach. The issue was not discussed with any of the committee members and the senate should act on this issue. **McGarry** replied that the Faculty Senate should write a letter of protest and demand that the committee be reconvened at this time. **Foley** added that the working group should include faculty representation and be expanded to audit classroom and research space. However, the committee should not convene until the ad-hoc group has finished with their survey. **Ellis** suggested that the administrators do not think about faculty and faculty let it happen. **Sawyer** suggested the letter be called a 'letter of concern' not a 'letter of protest.' **McGarry** agreed to write a letter of protest/concern and submit a corresponding motion.

9. Questions on reports/summaries from committees/working groups

None

10. Other Items

None

11. Comments from Guests

None

12. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Flora (In honor of Patrick)
Second: Sellers
Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Senator Eric Sellers (sellers@etsu.edu or 9-4476, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2017-2018) of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or 9-6691).