



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	04/05/2021	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Zoom
Next Meeting:	04/19/2021	Scribe:			Ashley Sergiadis
Present:	Alexander, Katelyn; Beatty, Kate; Blackhart, Ginette; Blackwell, Roger; Brown, Patrick; Burford, Mike; Burns, Bracken; Byington, Randy; Chen, Yi-Yang; Cherry, Donna; Collins, Charles; De Oliveira Fiuza, Felipe; Dunn, Andrew; Ecay, Thomas; Ellis, Jon; Emma, Todd; Epps, Susan; Evanshen, Pam; Foley, Virginia; Fraysier, Donna; Garris, Bill; Gomez-Sobrinho, Isabel; Gray, Jeffrey; Hagemeyer, Nick; Hawthorne, Sean; Hemphill, Bill; Hemphill, Jean; Holmes, Alan; Johnson, Jeanna Michelle (Mikki); Johnson, Michelle; Kahn, Shoeb; Kim, Sookhym; Livingston, James; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; McGarry, Theresa; Mitchell, Holly; Nivens, Ryan; O’Neil, Kason; Park, Esther; Peterson, Jonathan; Ramsey, Priscilla; Sargsyan, Alex; Sergiadis, Ashley; Stevens, Alan; Tai, Chih-Che; Thompson, Beth Ann; Walden, Rachel;				
Absent:	Elangovan, Saravanan				
Excused:	Hendrix, Stephen; Kruppa, Michael; Waters, Susan				

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order
1. Celebrations
2. Introductions of Guests
3. Announcements
4. Guest Speakers
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Action Items
7. Information Items
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Comments from Guests
11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators
12. Adjourn

DISCUSSIONS

1. Celebrations
1.1 Epps announced that she would need to leave the meeting early to attend the press conference for the new basketball coach.
1.2 Collins is officially retiring this summer. He has been teaching for thirty-eight years.
2. Introductions of Guests
2.1 Amy Johnson, Associate Provost for Faculty & Director, Center for Teaching Excellence
3. Announcements
3.1 There will be a Town Hall with Dr. Noland on April 20 at 1:30pm.



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3.2 **Sergiadis** announced that Sherrod Library has an Electronic Textbook Reserves Program where the library purchases e-textbooks that are required for classes under an unlimited license, meaning every single student in a course could access the textbook at the same time. If instructors wanted to check if their course textbooks is available to purchase, complete the Suggest the Purchase form (<https://etsu.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/illiad.dll?Action=10&Form=30&&rft.genre=other>). The library does receive information from the bookstore to find out what textbooks instructors are requiring and whether they can purchase them. However, they sometimes do not get that list until closer to the beginning of the semester.

3.3 **Brown** announced that he would no longer be serving on the Faculty Senate next year so the position of Parliamentarian is position is available. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee appoints this position. If interested, contact him and he will share his training materials.

4. Guest Speakers

4.1 Mr. Jeremy Ross – Facilities Update

4.1.1 Ross provided update on campus facilities.

- Ross provided a list of Capital Disclosures: Admission Renovation, Sam Wilson Renovation & Addition, John Robert Bell Drive Upgrade, Memorial Center Exterior Upgrade, and Boulevard Commons Extension. These are projects that we might pursue, but it does not mean that they have funding.
- ETSU received \$11.3 million for maintenance, which was \$2 million more than what we were expecting.
- ETSU submitted a new Academic Building (\$52 million) request. The Governor did not recommend it so it is not in the government's budget. It ranked #5 on THEC Capital Outlay Recommendations. Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 9 were recommended for funding by the Governor. There is still a potential that it could be funded.
- VA Building 2 for Orthotics and Prosthetics and Occupational Therapy (\$4 million) is in the early stages of being built.
- Boulevard Commons will be open on April 16. There will be swing sets, horseshoes, and a clock with a recognition to faculty and staff, and shuffleboard. There is a space in Carter Hall for a bakery or candy shop.
- He provided some images of what they are considering for the future: amphitheater steps near Lamb Hall, new quad behind Lamb Hall, green space in front of Clemmer, new turn around in front of Brooks Memorial Hall with accessible parking, pathway to connect the quad behind Sam Wilson and Lamb Hall, paving on top of the amphitheater near the Culp Center.
- He provided a list of summer projects: Lamb Hall (\$23 million) is starting to get ready for construction. The Fine Arts Center has \$1-2 dollars of work left, mostly around technology and equipment. The Culp Center still has some construction left. Brown Hall has chemistry lab renovations. There are housing renovations and maintenance such as HVAC renovations to Buc Ridge. The Memorial Center mini dome is being worked on to increase capacity for graduation (new doors, entrances, code corrections), University Commons is still being improved. We are beginning to get a Master Plan for Innovation Park, the site behind Fresh Market. This could potentially include a new building for the College of Medicine.

4.1.2 Ross asked for questions and feedback.

Kahn: Is there a plan to have a new building to house the Department of Computer Science. Right now, we are in Nicks Hall. I want to see a field like Computer Science have a state of the art building because it is one of the most sellable majors that can attract students across the state and world.

Ross: The New Academic Building will be focused around some arts and sciences programs, specifically general education. I am not certain that particular building would house Computer Science. The renovation to the Millennium Center may receive some of the Cyber programs. As more of that space is being renovated, it could be an option. There may be some creative ways to find space in there for some faculty.



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Kahn. The issue with the Millennium Center is that it is hard to change the original vision of the building. The vision has changed to be more academic focused - labs, offices, etc. It is hard to house that in a building that did not have that kind of vision. For example, you have tall ceilings and you do not want to put offices in that kind of space.

4.2 Dr. Ginni Blackhart – Provost Academy Scholar

4.2.1 Blackhart presented on Digital Measures.

Digital Measures is a software tool that allows faculty to record their activities (teaching, research, service, community engagement). Once you input information, it stays in the system. This is helpful when you have to report the same information multiple times (annual evaluations, tenure/promotion, and accreditation purposes). Through what is called Workflow, faculty can create reports for these things. It is going to be more work for faculty on the front end, but it will make our lives easier. We have been working on this since January. We are starting to be trained in using Digital Measures so that we can train other people. I have been speaking with deans, department chairs, and other stakeholders to share what Digital Measures is and what it can do, but also collect information to ensure that we are recording all of the information needed with Digital Measures. I will begin training early adopters probably at the end of spring/early summer. We will begin training 12-month faculty in the Summer and then continue faculty and staff training into the Fall with everyone on campus trained to use it by the end of 2021. When you enter information into Digital Measures, only certain people can access your information such as your department chair and dean. Regular faculty cannot just pull the information from your profile. We are going to be using this for annual evaluations and for the tenure and promotion process, graduate faculty status, faculty credentialing, accreditation purposes, and anything else that we need to collect and report information. Since the whole campus is using it, we will have better data so that we can really promote what faculty are doing on our campus.

4.2.2 Blackhart asked for questions and comments on Digital Measures.

Hemphill: Is this the same program, that we heard a presentation about sometime last semester. The same one that UT Knoxville may use or the UT Systems uses?

Blackhart: I know that the UT Health Sciences Center uses Digital Measures. I do not believe that the entire campus uses it. I am not sure whether it is the same program that you heard about last semester or not. I came on board into this in January.

Foley: This is something we had asked for about four years ago. I am glad the university is finally acting on it. In the end, it will be much more efficient use of our time.

Blackhart: I agree. The biggest hurdle is going to be the work up front in terms of putting our information in. Some neat tools help us do that. For instance, there is an option where you can upload your CV into Digital Measures and it will populate certain areas within Digital Measures. There is also the option in terms of publications. It does not work with Digital Commons, but it does work with Mendeley, RefWorks, PubMed, Google Scholar, and a few others to pull publications. Newer faculty are going to benefit from Digital Measures a lot more than people like me who have been around for a long time.

McGarry: I was wondering if you had tested the system with a selection of faculty on campus.

Blackhart: Not yet. In fact, I have not even gotten to get into the system and play around with it yet. That is part of what we are going to do with early adopters. I have been talking to people in different departments and colleges around the university to find a group of early adopters. Some staff members, newer faculty, faculty who have been around for a while, faculty who are tech savvy, faculty who are not tech savvy, etc. to test it and validate it. We will be doing that late spring or early summer.



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McGarry: I would feel better if you included at least one person from Music. Systems tend to be particularly unfriendly to the Department of Music as a general rule.

Blackhart: I will definitely reach out to the faculty in the Department of Music because you have a really good point. Those of you who are on Faculty Senate, let me know if any of you would like to be an early adopter or you know of faculty who would like to be early adopters. Just send me an email and I will add you to the list.

Kahn: Traditionally, when you go up for tenure, you upload it all in one place and it is e-mailed to everybody. Would this be still an option? Or how would this work?

Blackhart: No, Digital Measures will replace the promotion/tenure system once we get it fully up and operational.

Dunn: I know a lot of my faculty are more on the creative side of things. If I am a documentary filmmaker, for instance, that does not translate well to publications and things like that. Does it have a lot of built-in flexibility for that sort of creative work that goes beyond the traditional scope of publications?

Blackhart: Digital Measures is highly customizable. In that way, the departments define scholarly activities, scholarly and creative activities for their faculty. There are many different ways that we can record that in Digital Measures. That is one of the reasons why I am meeting with the deans and chairs. Since you will be the chair of your department soon, I am meeting with you just to make sure that we collect all of the information that each college and department will need for such things.

Byington: We have very few tenure-track faculty in our department or even tenured faculty. Has anyone looked to see how the system works for those who are not on a tenure-track?

Blackhart: I do not have the answer to that. I do know that other institutions that currently use Digital Measures have experience with that. I am not entirely sure how it works. The evaluation process will not change. We will be using Digital Measures, but we are not mandating that departments change the way they evaluate faculty, for instance. You would still use Digital Measures to collect activities for non-tenure track faculty as well and evaluate them in the same way that you always have.

Fiuza: I have a question concerning current recordings that we might have. Can those count for that project as well? Because through the pandemic, I probably recorded about 10 events so far.

Blackhart: That is not a question that I can answer. That is more at the departmental and college level in terms of how they would count that toward your scholarly activities. It is definitely something that you could record within Digital Measures.

5. Approval of Minutes

Hendrix questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 03/22/2021 meeting. **Sergiadis** stated that Senator McGarry sent me some minor corrections that would be corrected before final minutes were sent out.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

6. Action Items
None.

7. Information Items



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7.1 Handbook Committee Update – Dr. Epps
No update.

7.2 Board of Trustees Report – Dr. Foley

The Tuition Transparency Act requires a period of open comment for tuition increases and that is available for comment. Comments will be done by email this time instead of open public comment because people revealed private information last time we had it open for public comment. If you want to make comments about tuition that site is open; it is up until the 16th. If you cannot find it and want to make a comment, email Dr. Foley and she will send you the link.

7.3 2021-2022 Faculty Senate Calendar

Blackhart presented the Faculty Senate meetings and dates for the 2021-2022 academic year. Our Fall Retreat will be August 17th. It will be in person. All of our meetings for the Fall will be conducted via Zoom. It is yet to be determined whether we will meet in person or on Zoom for the Spring semester. **[Senator]** stated that October 11th is during Fall Break. **Collins, Brown, and Foley** noted that Faculty Senate does not normally meet during Fall Break. Blackhart stated that the Executive Committee would discuss and come up with a plan.

7.4 Motion – Dr. Dunn

I move that faculty senate recommends that East Tennessee State University creates and adopts a policy on non-patentable intellectual property in alignment with the AAUP's policy on the same (<https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-intellectual-property>)

Dunn introduced the motion. The legal office feels that everything that we do as professors is sort of work for hire and that ETSU owns everything we do. When we look at the intellectual property policy in the Faculty Handbook, it just refers to a document on research. Legal would be open to us finding another way of defining intellectual property. He recommended the AAUP's perspective on intellectual property. This is a pressing issue with the drive to put more classes online and agree to MOUs.

7.5 Reports from University Committees

7.5.1 Information Technology Government Committee – Mr. Hemphill
No report.

7.6 Nominations for Elections of 2021-2022 Faculty Senate Officers – Mr. Stephen Hendrix

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer/COO

Blackhart asked for nominations 2021-2022 Faculty Senate officers: Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer/COO. Nominations will be taken through our next Faculty Senate meeting, and we will vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Self-nominations are certainly welcome and you do not have to do it today. The Executive Committee members-at-large are nominated at the Fall Retreat. **Blackhart** tentatively put her name in for Vice President. This will depend on whether she is re-elected to represent her college. **Sergiadis** nominated herself for Secretary.

8. Old Business

8.1 Resolution -- – Support of ETSU Basketball

Emma: What is going on with the letter of support for the basketball players?

Blackhart: I do not have an update on that. Does anyone else have an update on what happened to that letter of support?

Foley: We did not ask for any action. It went to the President, but we did not ask for any action so it is in



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the President's and administration's hands. It ought to be posted on our website. I notice that it is not there either.

Blackhart: Great suggestion. I will get it posted on the website today.

Sergiadis: It was posted within the final minutes, but I think it should be posted separately because people do not want to dig to find it.

Blackhart: I agree, Ashley. People may not want to dig to find out and they probably are not going to dig to find it. I do like the idea of it being more visible on the website.

9. New Business
None.

10. Comments from Guests
None.

11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators

11.1 Resignation of Coach Shay

Cherry: Is there anything that we could do? I know we had the resolution that we passed in support of the men's basketball team. Is there a similar mechanism that the Senate can do regarding when someone resigns like Coach Shay? I have had a couple people in my college reach out.

Blackhart: My guess is it would look similar to the resolution that we had approved before regarding our support for the basketball team.

Brown: Any member of the Senate can draft a resolution for anything and bring it up for debate. The problem is we are getting very close to the end of the academic year in the Senate term.

Foley: My thoughts are it is done. There is not anything we can do to influence it. I am wondering if it is an individual's response as opposed to a body's response.

Blackhart: Regarding what Patrick said, it would not be able to be voted on until August. Is that correct?

Brown: Right unless somebody moves to suspend the rules.

Byington: There are mechanisms other than resolutions to get communications going between the administration and the Faculty Senate. We could have a motion to ask the Faculty Senate President to do X or Y or whatever.

Blackhart: Do not forget that any faculty member can also ask questions of Dr. Noland and Dr. Bishop. If this is something you want more answers or you want a discussion, this is always something that you could put in the Ask Administrator on the Faculty Senate website. This will be brought up to Dr. Noland at our next meeting on Friday.

Hemphill (J.): Was the Faculty Senate resolution in support of the students sent outside the university? It seems that SGA resolutions are sent outside of the university.

Blackhart: I do not think it has been sent out of the university, but I do think that it would be worthwhile to post it in a visible place on the Faculty Senate website at the very least.

11. Adjourn
Motion to Adjourn: Brown
Second: Park
Meeting Adjourned



Please notify Senator Ashley Sergiadis (sergiadis@etsu.edu, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2020-2021) of any changes or corrections to the minutes.

Note: Meeting minutes are not a word-for-word transcript. Statements and questions by Senators may be edited and summarized for clarity

2021-2022 Faculty Senate Dates and Locations

Fall 2021

- August 17th – Fall Retreat (Physical Meeting – Location TBA)
- August 30th – Virtual Meeting
- September 13th – Virtual Meeting
- September 27th – Virtual Meeting
- October 11th – Virtual Meeting
- October 25th – Virtual Meeting
- November 8th – Virtual Meeting
- November 22nd – Virtual Meeting

Spring 2022

- January 24th - TBD
- February 7th - TBD
- February 21st - TBD
- March 7th - TBD
- March 21st - TBD
- April 4th - TBD
- April 18th - TBD