



## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

|                      |   |              |               |                  |                                 |
|----------------------|---|--------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Meeting Date:</b> | 03/07/2022  | <b>Time:</b> | 14:45 – 16:30 | <b>Location:</b> | Zoom                            |
| <b>Next Meeting:</b> | 03/21/2022  |              |               |                  | <b>Scribe:</b> Ashley Sergiadis |
| <b>Present:</b>      | Beatty, Kate; Blackhart, Ginni; Blackwell, Roger; Cherry, Donna; Digavalli, Siva; Ecay, Thomas; Ellis, Jon; Epps, Susan; Evanshen, Pam; Fisher, Stacey; Foley, Virginia; Frye, Stephanie; Funk, Bobby; Garris, Bill; Gentry, Retha; Gomez Sobrino, Isabel; Gray, Jeffrey; Harnois-Church, Patricia; Hauldren, Kacie; Hawthorne, Sean; Hemphill, Bill; Hemphill, Jean; Hendrix, Stephen; Herrmann, Andrew; Hounshell, Jonathan; Johnson, Michelle; Kim, Sookhyun; Kruppa, Michael; Landis, Ryan; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; Mamudu, Hadii; McGarry, Theresa; Nivens, Ryan; O'Neil, Kason; Park, Esther; Prince, Richard; Ramsey, Priscilla; Schroder, Laurie; Sergiadis, Ashley; Stevens, Alan; Tai, Chih-Che; Thigpen, Jim; Thompson, Beth Ann; Trogen, Paul; Uddin, Mohammad; Walden, Rachel; Weyant, Emily; Youngberg, George; Zahner, Matt |              |               |                  |                                 |
| <b>Absent:</b>       | Bray, Sheree; ; Burns, Bracken; Byington, Randy; Chakraborty, Kanishka; Daniels, Jean; De Oliveira Fiuza, Felipe; Elangovan, Saravanan; Dowling-McClay, Karilynn; Waters, Susan;  |              |               |                  |                                 |

### Agenda Items

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| Meeting called to order                        |
| 1. Celebrations                                |
| 2. Introductions of Guests                     |
| 3. Announcements                               |
| 4. Guest Speaker                               |
| 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 |
| 11. Adjourn                                    |

### DISCUSSIONS

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| 1. Celebrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 <b>Epps</b> is traveling to Greece over Spring Break to see her son who is studying abroad.</li> <li>1.2 <b>Tai</b> attended the meeting at 3:45 AM quarantining in a Taiwan hotel.</li> </ul>                |
| 2. Introductions of Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Amy Johnson, Associate Provost for Faculty and Director, Center for Teaching Excellence</li> <li>2.2 Nichalos Jarvis, 4<sup>th</sup> year student College of Pharmacy with Senator Gray</li> </ul> |
| 3. Announcements <p>None.</p>  |
| 4. Guest Speaker – Ms. Ashley Sergiadis and Mr. Phil Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Sergiadis and Smith presented on Open and Affordable (OA) Course Materials.</li> </ul>   |



## DISCUSSIONS

- Those involved in ETSU's Open and Affordable (OA) Course Materials include Ashley Sergiadis, David Atkins, Jennifer Young, and Travis Clamon (Sherrod Library); Phil Smith (Center for Teaching Excellence); Amy Johnson (Office of the Provost); and Moin Uddin (College of Business and Technology)
- ETSU suggests students budget \$1,350/year for books, but students report spending less per semester (i.e. \$100-300/semester). One explanation for this discrepancy is that over half of ETSU students claim that cost prevented them from buying a textbook (according to a fall 2021 survey).
- Open Educational Resources (zero-cost materials with licenses to customize) and Affordable Course Materials (zero or low-cost materials without the license to customize like library materials) are one solution to the problem of textbook affordability. Their short-term goal is to raise awareness and encourage the use of OA materials and the long-term goal is create an OA culture at ETSU.
- ETSU has four main OA Initiatives through Sherrod Library and CTE:
  - **Workshops:** Events are held every fall and spring semesters sometimes with stipends available for faculty. This semester, Sherrod Library and CTE are conducting the OER Champion Show and Tell Series. They can also conduct workshops for colleges/departments.
  - **Awards Program:** Stipends (\$500-\$2,000) are available for faculty who use, customize, or create OA materials. Peer and general support (e.g. publishing) is provided.
  - **E-Textbook Reserves:** Sherrod Library purchases e-textbooks for courses. They determine what to buy based on bookstore data and [Suggest a Purchase form](#). Not every textbook is available this way.
  - **Support:** Sherrod Library and CTE can provide support on finding OA, copyright, publishing OER, accessibility, and open pedagogy.
- Statistics on ETSU's OA Initiatives:
  - \$180,000 has been invested in the initiatives from Student Library Fee, external funding (TBR Grant), and CTE.
  - \$9,000+ students in 330 courses saved \$850,000 the first time the OA materials were implemented. Most courses are mainly the levels of upper undergraduate and graduate. The hope is to use OA materials in more general education courses.
  - 300+ faculty attended workshops, received awards, or used library e-textbooks.
  - 90-100% of faculty and students (1) rated the quality of OA materials the same as or better than their other course materials, (2) found it easy to use and implement the materials, and (3) supported the continuation of initiatives.
  - Initiatives support DEI by ensuring all students have access to materials and by having diversity in types of materials and content. DFW rates and grades on average remain steady or improves with the use of OA materials. Few students reported accessibility or internet issues.
  - The library has tracked 19,000+ clicks on the links in D2L to library e-textbooks. Library e-textbook usage has been up by 80%
  - ETSU created and adapted OERs have been downloaded 24,000 times.
- There are several barriers to OA.
  - Faculty have concerns including the lack of time to adopt/customize/create OA, limited OA materials available for their courses, and lack of decision making power when it comes to their course materials (such as with GAs, adjuncts, etc. who do not choose their course materials).
  - There is a lack of interaction between faculty/bookstore/library. Faculty do not always report their textbooks to the bookstore or consult the library when choosing course materials.
  - Lastly, primarily the student library fee currently funds the initiatives. It also pays for furniture, collections, etc. We need funding to maintain the initiatives and there is a lack of funding based on the library's budget.
- Partnerships on university, state, and national level:
  - ETSU's [OA Advisory Council](#) are faculty and students helping Sherrod Library/CTE prioritize ideas/initiatives, discuss upcoming issues, promote, OA, etc.
  - TN Open Education provides TBR grants, state repository.
  - Open Education Network connects to the broader community and has good resources and a listserv.
- The OA Team is presenting to other groups and asking everyone at ETSU to help create an OA culture.
  - They request students raise awareness: talk to peers and instructors (while respecting



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academic freedom) and participate in the OA Advisory Council, Sherrod Library Advisory Council, or tabling events.

- They request faculty to interact and communicate: consider using OA materials, ask Sherrod Library/CTE for help, report required materials to bookstore even if they are OA materials, participate in workshops, and share knowledge on OA with colleagues.
- They request administrators to facilitate systematic changes: recognize/support/encourage faculty using OA materials (e.g. add criteria in tenure/promotion guidelines and allow piloting in sections of courses with multiple sections/instructors), support and advocate for library funding of OA initiatives, and market/promote OA initiatives internally within colleges/departments and externally (e.g. during recruitment).

### 4.2 Sergiadis, Smith, and OA Team answered questions on Open and Affordable Course Materials.

**Epps:** In my course, I use library journal articles, TED talks, and other free online sources. Am I supposed to report every source that I use to the bookstore?

**Sergiadis:** No, you do not have to list every single one, but indicate that you are using free sources.

**Epps:** How do indicate that?

**Herrmann:** In Follett Discover, I check the "I'm using OER/Free materials." The bookstore likes me to include the link as well, so they have a record of it.

**Digavalli:** When the library purchases e-textbooks, do you buy one or several copies?

**Sergiadis:** We generally buy unlimited license in which we purchase them once and it is available to as many students as need access to it. There have been some special cases where we purchase licenses where only three people could access it.

**Funk:** I refused to use an expensive text for introduction to theater. It tends to cost \$100 for something that students will never use again. Patrick Cronin and I wrote a text for Introduction to Theatre that was an online textbook. We received a lot of dissension from other faculty in our department for creating it and having students use it. Some of these other texts on here seem to have been written by faculty at ETSU. What is the feeling about using a text that you wrote yourself?

**Sergiadis:** That is what we are trying to change with the culture. We want everyone to respect those creating Open Educational Resources. One reason we have the awards program is to encourage faculty who want to create texts like you described through stipends. There is not as much of a stigma, but the culture could still improve.

**Epps:** I think there was a policy that we are not supposed to benefit from a textbook you wrote such as requiring your students to purchase the textbook you authored. If it is free then it should not be the concern. Maybe the people did not understand that you were not benefiting it from financially.

**Smith:** We think that writing textbooks or course materials should be like a scholarly work and reflected in your tenure and promotion packet. I do not think you should be punished for it but rewarded. This is the opposite of having students buy your book because it is free and open. Not only would ETSU students have access, but students outside of ETSU.

**Sergiadis:** One of our early adopters of library e-textbooks wrote the book that the library purchased. They noted that they did not earn a lot of money from having students purchase the textbook.

**Johnson:** The [Cost of Textbook policy](#) actually encourages faculty to consider practices that reduce the cost of textbooks and course materials.

**Nivens:** It is bragging rights if you wrote the book on the topic. Some of my best professors wrote the materials we bought. I think it makes it prestigious that you wrote the textbook on the topic. Dr. Poole in Mathematics self-published a 200-300-page textbook that he would provide to students. If they wanted the textbook printed out, he would charge them for the paper. I always thought that made him awesome.

**Hemphill (B.):** I wanted to know more about Digital Commons@ETSU and what non-textbook type materials could go in there. The problem with engineering data is that it changes over time. Can you speak to the problem of updating it? Who is in charge? Do we work with you?

**Sergiadis:** You would work me or we could make you an administrator. Changing materials is as simple as going into the system, revising it, and uploading a new copy. It does not take much time. We can have it where the previous iterations are available as additional files if that is what is needed or we can hide them. It will support any file type. For example, we have videos and audio. The platform has native



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streaming where you can stream within [Digital Commons@ESTU](#) or we can embed a YouTube video.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

**Hendrix** questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 02/21/2022 meeting. **Sergiadis** stated that Senator Epps had minor corrections to the minutes.

**No Objection: Minutes Approved**

### 6. Action Items

None.

### 7. Information Items

#### 7.1 Future Senate Meetings Going Hybrid – Mr. Hendrix

Our next Faculty Senate meeting (03/21) will be our first attempt at running a hybrid meeting. We will be meeting physically in the Culp Forum as well as having a virtual option. Please choose whatever works best for you and have patience as we work out the kinks. Faculty Senate will be meeting hybrid for the last three meetings. You will need to bring with you an electronic device (smartphone, tablet, laptop device) if you plan on meeting physically. We will be conducting the voting via Zoom.

#### 7.2 Handbook Committee Update – Dr. Epps

None.

#### 7.3 Board of Trustees Report – Dr. Foley

None.

#### 7.4 Standing Committee Need – Dr. Epps

The Open and Affordable Advisory Council is requesting a Faculty Senate representative to serve for two years beginning in 2022-2023. They will also be searching for faculty at large to serve on the committee. Epps will present this opportunity again in the next two weeks to see if there is anyone interested in serving.

If you have faculty in colleges/departments who are interested in serving on committees, you will start seeing calls for faculty and staff participation on campus in the weekly Faculty and Staff email on Mondays. It is a great way particularly for new faculty to get service. We are not filling these types of positions through Faculty Senate anymore.

#### 7.5 College Elections for Vacant Senate Positions – Mr. Hendrix and Dr. McGarry

Elections should be done by March 31 so Faculty Senate can conduct nominations for officers in April. Colleges can run their own election or Senator McGarry can organize it.

#### 7.6 Reports from University Committees

##### 7.6.1 General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) – Dr. Garris

The ETSU General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) met and heard Dr. Mike Hoff's Committee for 125 (Phase II) presentation. In brief summary, the future is bright. The ETSU IRB Committee met to review actions the IRB had taken over the preceding 30 days. Notably, there was one particular situation, de-identified, where a student and faculty principal investigator had violated IRB policy. The IRB Committee worked together to create an appropriate response to resolve the situation.

#### 7.7 Questions for President Noland and Provost McCorkle – Mr. Hendrix

**Hendrix** asked Senators if they had any questions for President Noland and Provost McCorkle during their upcoming meetings with Executive Committee. All faculty can send questions in the Ask an Admin form: <https://www.etsu.edu/senate/askanadmin.php>

**Hemphill (J.):** We do a tremendous amount of driving visiting clinical sites. With the rising gas prices, we



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were wondering if the reimbursement for gas will change?

Tai: I think we have a new mileage formula: .585.

7.8 Other Items of Discussion from the Floor – Mr. Hendrix

**McGarry:** I received the following email from a faculty member in CAS: *I am writing to express my desire that the Faculty Senate issue a statement in opposition to SB 2290/HB 2670 or otherwise fight the passage of this bill. I have called my representatives in the legislature, and I am currently drafting a letter to the editor in opposition to this bill. However, I hope that some sort of collective statement from college faculty might also make the bill less likely to pass.* (51:49)

**Hendrix:** I reached out to Presidents of Faculty Senate across the state. At this time, no senate has directly indicated that they are going to take action. One Senate said there was a possibility that they would be pushing a resolution forward. One Senate said they would not do anything.

8. Old Business

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Comments from Guests

None.

11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators

None.

12. Adjourn

**Motion to Adjourn: Epps**

**Second: ???**

**Meeting Adjourned**

*Please notify Senator Ashley Sergiadis ([sergiadis@etsu.edu](mailto:sergiadis@etsu.edu), Faculty Senate Secretary, 2021-2022) 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.*