

Date: February 15th, 2024
Time: 2:40 PM-4:36 PM
Zoom Meeting Faculty Senate

Minutes taken by Senator Guinevere Bennett, Secretary.
 AYS - Senator Artenzia Young-Seigler, Chair
 VT - Senator Tiriveedhi Venkataswarup, Chair-Elect
 GB - Senator Guinevere Bennett, Secretary
 Vacant - Treasurer
 RA - Senator Reginald Archer, Parliamentarian
 WJ - Senator W. Bill Johnson, Board of Trustees Representative
 KT - Kimberly Triplett, past chair

Item #	Agenda Item	Motions by	Motions seconded by
1	<p>2:40-2:41 PM Welcome and Call to Order AYS – Call to order, welcome to the February Faculty Senate meeting.</p>		
2	<p>2:41 – 3:11 PM Update and Information from the Office of Academic Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Interim VP of Academic Affairs and Provost, VP of technology and Innovation <p>Dr. Robbie Melton (RM) rmelton@tnstate.edu</p> <p>Senate Bills/Legislation</p> <p>All of us should have concerns about what is happening on the hill, something happened today. The Senate just passed SB2109 where THEC takes over governing a university when the Board is vacated. SB2109 was voted on by the entire Senate and was passed. It is now up to the house to fix, change, or amend.</p> <p>WBJ – Bills must pass in both houses. This bill SB2109 is a failsafe so if any governing board is dissolved during sunseting, the bill proposes THEC become the temporary governance structure until permanent governance can be appointed. It must go through several committees, and the match bill goes in through the House of Representatives (rolled to February 26th for discussion) due to holiday. There are discussions of alternative ways to do this. THEC restructuring and responsibilities are changing and THEC’s role in that. THEC has never served as a governing board, and questions if they have staff to do this. The concern is if they have the capabilities and staffing to do this, questions went unanswered but stated they trained the governing board members. An amendment was added late stating if there is a conflict of interest, the executive director will make the decision. Mr. Regan is leading this in the House of Representatives.</p> <p>There is an additional bill SB1596 was supposed to add two years to the board, it was tabled spring 2023. It was just reintroduced, changing with new revisions from a two-year extension to vacating the board immediately. This passed through Gov Ops Committee in the Senate. Please look at the testimony by the Vice-Chair and student trustee. It has moved to the next committee. The prime issue is who selects the next president, with the international search window closing in early March, then the Board of Trustees makes final decision for the president selection. Who is that board?</p> <p>RM – Our office role is to monitor the impact for (SACSCOC), how this governance issue will affect teaching and learning, faculty, and students. Information and facts are being brought to dispel rumors, I look and protect Academic Affairs in terms of teaching and learning, faculty, and students. During transitions, there will be a spike of anxiousness, the period of uncertainty will increase as we get closer to June. We must help our staff and students to settle down. Senators, when I receive complaints of faculty as a collective, I immediately</p>		

<p>contact AYS and the transition to the next chair, next I take steps to determine if this is a faculty or individual situation. Regarding protocol and procedure, if it is an individual complaint, one goes to HR, the other goes to Mr. Brownlee (discrimination/hostile environment) for follow-up. With both I am in contact with legal, I want you to know immediate actions take place and it is not forgotten, it is not forgotten/I will not let it rest. It takes time though.</p> <p>Forensic Audit Senator George (CG) – Press of Senator Lundberg accusations that we have not provided requested information for the audit. Is there truth to that? WBJ – That is not true, there are a series of audits going on. This is a \$2 million forensic audit (financial and decisions), which is different than our usual audits. Politically there is an agenda, first to remove president, second to vacate the board. They do this through taking these actions. There is urgency to get in front of this story because the deep forensic audit is not complete (nothing has been reported to the Comptroller, legislatures, or the university), and the university has been asked for additional information that we are providing. What if the audit is not as bad as they (invested government representatives) would like it to be, this is John Lumbergh’s intent, to create space where facts do not occur that the public will accept. We are in compliance with the requests. As for the \$2 million being paid to this audit company, there is no additional support funding allocation for us to comply with any of their requests. RM – This is an ongoing exchange of information; we have provided all information previously requested and all additional information being requested. Senator McMillian (RTM)(chat) – Has an estimated completion date for the forensic audit been established? Mr. Eric Schmeller (chat)– I believe it is February 29th and the audit report goes to the Comptroller at that time. WBJ (chat)– The original due date was before January 3rd (beginning of leg session), it has been extended to February 15th and is now listed as the end of February.</p> <p>Inclement Weather Class, AI Summit AYS – The Tuesday we had classes canceled for inclement weather, there was a question of if we need to make up that instruction time? RM – We need to make up that instructional time. AYS – Do we make up a plan or is that with the Deans? RM – There are individual ways to do that, assignments, class time addition, etc. RM - I will put up information in the chat for summit information coming up. Thank you to those participating in AI, you received an invite and have a webinar tomorrow. The purpose for this is research, to get faculty out front teaching and learning with these tools. June 5-7 we are having an AI For All Summit with large corporation involvement. We want to become the go-to institution in researching the impact and bring forth transformation for this tool. There will be a call for papers and presentations. The TSU is #1 and #2 NFL Maddon eSports and female gaming, and they won a scholarship.</p> <p>Faculty Salary Study, APIP Dr. Eric Schmeller – The Faculty Salary Study is a little stalled, we are having some issues getting salary information for Health Sciences information. We have upcoming professional development opportunities; information will come out soon about this. We are also doing work on high-impact practices to introduce to faculty to incorporate in the classroom, coming out March 15th, you will see more about that. WBJ – APIP guidelines are coming out in March, be sure you are tracking publications and presentations. AYS – And share this with faculty.</p>		
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3	<p>3:11-3:30 PM Chairs Council Update/Other Invited Guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tina Smith <p>The chair council was formed by Dr. Hardy, to provide advice/seek advice from administrators on issues related to leadership, management, and other academic concerns. We want to improve direct communication between OAA and chairs and provide a forum for chairs to discuss and address challenges and advocate as a group for academic changes. Topics Addresses: General Education courses (equivalent, substitutions, transcript access), academic Calendar (finalization at beginning of semester), Final Grade Submissions (at beginning of the semester), Degree Works (Scripting files, deficiency reports, graduation delays), Financial Aid Barriers, Faculty Workloads, Travel Funds Increase (currently \$2100 paperwork in 30 days prior), EAB Navigate, Registration Issues, Advisement, and Chairs Exit Plan.</p> <p>RM – Due to funding and lack of scholarships, we are focused on retention. We got funding for students on probation to retake courses to improve their GPA and we will pay for it. High achieving students do not receive this benefit due to lack of funding. This money is being spent for retention efforts. The Chair Exit Plan was pending for three years, I have asked them for summer workloads, and I don't understand why chairs are not compensated for summer teaching. I have asked them to investigate this.</p> <p>WBJ – This is addressed in the Faculty Handbook; they must teach 6 credits.</p> <p>RM – This needs to be reevaluated because the job as a chair is different now than when the policy was written.</p> <p>RM – There is a pending bill about AI, we have the AI fellows to see the impact in your area.</p> <p>Senator Pleban (FP) – Regarding travel funding, we have found a holdup in reimbursement.</p> <p>AYS – He is referring to the time for reimbursement and the issue there.</p> <p>RM – I will investigate and find out; it goes through several departments for approval.</p> <p>Senator Okoro (CO) – My understanding is a chair is a 12-month contract, it doesn't matter how much they teach in the summer, we need to clarify that.</p> <p>Dr. Tina Smith – We are looking at the teaching responsibility, should they be teaching, how many, or at all to carry out the administrative functions for the department. How effective is that in terms of our administrative duties? That is what we are looking at.</p> <p>RM – I have received concerns that chairs teaching prevents faculty from teaching and receiving that compensation.</p> <p>Senator Ghosh (SG) - I have a travel funds question as well. I have students that have traveled in the summer and submitted paperwork and have not received reimbursement for travel. I don't think this delay is acceptable.</p> <p>RM – Now that I am aware of this, I will investigate the timeliness issue and come back with information.</p>		
4	<p>3:30-3:32 PM Consideration and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 01.18.2024</p> <p>Motion: To approve minutes. All Approve, none Deny, motion passed.</p>	GB	SG
5	<p>3:32 – 3:45 PM STANDING Committee Reports</p>		
<p>Academic Committee (Senator Ahmad Aziz)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>			
<p>Alumni Relations and Development Committee (VACANT)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>			
<p>Budget Committee (Senator Reynard McMillian)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>			
<p>Constitution and By-laws Committee (Senator William Johnson)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>			
<p>Curriculum Committee (Senator Twianie Roberts)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>			
<p>Faculty Benefits and Welfare Committee (Senator Cynthia George)</p>			

<p>This committee met. We want to schedule a meeting with Provost Melton, discuss faculty wellness initiatives, training suggestions for faculty and chairs around workload and other benefits as this was initiated with Provost Harris.</p> <p>WBJ/AYS – Can you submit a summary document requesting this to the executive committee?</p> <p>WBJ – When our subcommittees meet with people, it is the perception that they represent the entire Faculty Senate and faculty. Subcommittees report to the executive committee, then the executive committee is the spokes-group or provisions out someone a constrained commentary.</p> <p>CG – A document that just requests a meeting, not every talking point must be on it?</p> <p>AYS – Yes, so I can tell her what you are coming to talk to her about.</p> <p>WBJ – Some of the topics you mentioned cross several subcommittees.</p> <p>CG – We feel shut out from all the other committees that are charged with the same things that we are charged with. In many ways, because the study has been embargoed, we have been shut out of all these other conversations. We have collected a lot of information about workload and wellness, and we would like to communicate that with the provost.</p> <p>AYS – If you can email that to me, I will discuss it with the provost and see how she wants to proceed since this is not a voting action. The OAA wants our input on these items, several times, I would like to bring this to them. They will welcome that.</p>		
<p>Faculty Grievance and Appeals Committee (Senator Robbie Cochrum) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Information Technology Committee (Senator W. Bill Johnson) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Nomination and Appointment Committee (Senator Sagnika Ghosh) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Library Committee (VACANT) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Professional Development Committee (Senator Ken Chilton) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Research Committee (Senator Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi) <p>AYS – Dr. Quincy Quick sent out an email that research orders to ensure you check the facilities to ensure the equipment can be put into the desired space with all requirements met.</p> <p>Senator Khanal (AK) – A question was brought to me, ‘I have heard that efforts to move from R2 to R1, the university was planning to increase the research enhancement from external funds to PIs from 10% to 15%. Is this the case and if so, when is this going to be implemented?’</p> <p>WBJ – There is a document talking about research incentive award guidelines, ‘for research projects, a minimum of 10% indirect cost will be paid to the PI, 5% to the PIs as incentive award, and 5% to PIs lab or project, for all other grant and awards, 6% of indirect will go to the PI and 3% will go to the lab or project. This is a little bit different than what was submitted by this subcommittee.</p> <p>I believe as we move to R1 these numbers need to fluctuate, Dr. Quick may not be seeing this the same. We have divided responsibilities of R1, one is research funds and dollars, other is academic programming and supports.</p> <p>VT – Prior to 2014, Dr. Hardy advocated for this and implemented this, procedurally if we feel there is support to increase this number, we need to have a serious conversation in the research committee and we would be glad to take this up, and how we can enhance this award and what are best practices.</p> <p>WBJ – There are ESP and faculty release time buyout, and several components there to support PI investigators.</p> </p>		
<p>Student Appeals Committee (Senator Brian Russell) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Post Tenure Review Committee (VACANT) Nothing to report</p>		
<p>Non- Assignment Leave Grant (Senator Jason deKoff) Nothing to report</p>		

Fair Funding Action Committee (Senator Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi)			
Nothing to report			
6	<p>3:45 – 3:57 PM Faculty Senate Executive Officers Election Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Sagnika Ghosh • Senator Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi, Chair Elect <p>We have four open positions open positions; chair reviewed responsibilities of these roles. All nominations must be sent to me in-writing. We have received one nomination for parliamentarian and one nomination for treasurer.</p> <p>VT – Please nominate and interest to get into administration. We are time constricted for nominations.</p> <p>AYS – For those rotating off the Senate, I have sent a notification to your unit requesting replacement. We hope replacements will come to the next meeting. Please remind your deans to have senate nominations immediately (at latest by the March meeting).</p> <p>CG – I thought they started in August, are you saying they should be here next month?</p> <p>AYS – We request they attend before August to get acclimated to the senate for active workings in the senate.</p> <p>CG – If they have been a previous senator and are coming back, should I still invite them to come to the next meeting?</p> <p>AYS – Yes, they should still be invited to listen to the issues before starting in August.</p> <p>WBJ – Elections were supposed to occur in January.</p> <p>AYS – The plan is to hold the elections for the Executive Committee in the March meeting.</p> <p>WBJ – When a new president comes on board, and they see vacancies in the senate leadership, that calls into question the value of working with us.</p> <p>AYS – Being on the executive committee is very rewarding, busy, and important. Self-nominations are allowed and will be more important with the new president.</p>		
7	<p>3:57 – 4:23 PM Faculty Trustee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee and Senator Bill Johnson <p>March 14th is the next board meeting. Operational issues still need to be worked on rumors about finances, president assist about scholarships, etc. The university receives \$52.58 million from the state based on performance, from last year’s activities, paid monthly in installments. THEC is the financial arm, there has been a pause in the state allocation distribution by the state legislature (multiple months). While \$20 million was expected, \$6.1 million was received since October 2023. The rational is until forensic audit results are complete (pushed to end of February 2024). These funds are for operations and scholarships only, which is why we needed them. Plant funds are the TSU savings account, and the governing board put a restriction from transferring funds of 10% or more requiring board action. Any transfer of plant funds would have been a red flag of the same type as last year. This is why we asked for support, and this will be a discussion point at the next board meeting, and there are varying issues, some may be legal. We are negotiating and are trying to control our destiny, aggressive, assertive, and highly vocal. Please be positive about TSU good things, do not add negative information. At the president emergency meeting with students, we took questions for over an hour. THEC is restructuring with responsibilities and personnel. There is a piece of legislation that removes THEC oversight and requirements for current and new academic programs. They are implementing changes to THEC.</p>		
8	<p>4:23 – 4:25 PM NIA Grant Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Jason de Koff (JDK) <p>There are example packets in eLearn for your reference. Application is open February 1st – March 15th. Feel free to apply. Reach out to me with questions.</p> <p>jdekoff@tnstate.edu 615-963-4929, College of Ag)</p>		

9	<p>4:25 – 4:36 PM Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Artenzia Young-Seigler, Chair <p>HBCU Campus Climate Survey This is a survey in collaboration with Howard University, it is a research study specific to HBCUs. OAA gave approval and will be launched tomorrow along with Johnnie Smith and Reginald Cannon. Please participate. WBJ – Who is involved in this? AYS – Faculty, staff, administrators, also alumni, the campus climate from everyone. WBJ – Do they give options for the category you are reporting from? AYS – Yes, I will send information about the survey, although it is not the actual survey. You can share this with your department and college. WBJ – Will we get an aggregated report for our campus? AYS – Yes, our information will be separated and others as a collective. This may look from other surveys you have participated in because it focuses on HBCU. Senator Sibulkin – Is this an individual survey or departmental? AYS – Individual.</p> <p>Convocation (March 19, 9:30 AM) AYS – Honors convocation, RM recommend we attend with regalia and encourage students to attend. Students who participate should not be penalized for attending. WBJ – Who is the speaker? Can we get assurance of an end-time? AYS – I will send speaker information out, and I will get end-time information.</p> <p>Senator Crawford (MC) – Why and how are students still being added so late to classes? Is there anyone that monitors this? AYS – Some were purged erroneously and needed to be re-added, some found money and were put back in. It is very late and being added. The registrar monitors this. If the chair or dean requests this that it may occur. This request must occur though. MC – I don't know if we are doing anyone any favors, not the teacher or student. WBJ – I would encourage doing an analysis of these students to look at success.</p>		
10	<p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time: 4:36 PM 	BR	WBJ

Faculty Senator Attendance:

	Present VOTING	Absent	College	Last Name	First Name	Position	Year Term expires in April	Term 1 or 2
1	X		AGRICULTURE	de Koff	Jason	NIA Committee Chair	2024	2
2	X		AGRICULTURE	Khanal	Aditya		2024	2
3	X		AGRICULTURE	Archer	Reginald	Parliamentarian	2024	1
4	X		AGRICULTURE	Aziz	Ahmad	Academic Committee, Chair	2024	1
5		X	AGRICULTURE	Chen	Fur-Chi		2024	2
6		X	AGRICULTURE	Davis	LaPorchia		2024	1
7	X		BUSINESS	Jolayemi	Joel		2025	2
8		X	BUSINESS	Marquis	Gerald		2024	2
9		X	BUSINESS	Siekpe	Jeffrey		2024	1

10	X		BUSINESS	McMillian	Reynard	Budget Committee Chair	2024	1
11	X		EDUCATION	Roberts	Twianie	Dept. of Ed Leadership, Curriculum Committee, Chair	2025	2
12	X		EDUCATION	Sibulkin	Amy	Dept. of Psych.	2024	2
13		X	EDUCATION	Christian	Beth	Dept. of Ed.& Learning	2025	1
14	X		ENGINEERING	Ghosh	Sagnika	Nomination & Election Committee Chair	2024	1
15		X	ENGINEERING	Habibi	Mohammad		2025	1
16	X		ENGINEERING	Beane	Carlos		2024	1
17		X	ENGINEERING	Keel	Lee	Alternate	2024	1
18		X	COHS	Cochrum	Robbie	HPSS, Faculty Grievance Appeals Committee, Chair	2024	1
19	X		COHS	Pleban	Francis	PH,HA,HS	2024	2
20	X		COHS	Johnson	W. Bill	HPSS, Const and ByLaws, Chair, IT Chair	2024	1
21	X		COHS	Bennett	Guinevere	OT, Secretary	2024	1
22		X	COHS	Brock	Valerie	Alternate	2024	1
23	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Kakoti	George	Criminal Science	2024	1
24		X	LIBERAL ARTS	Anderson	Jill	LLP	2024	1
25	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Gadsden	Cynthia	Art & Design	2024	1
26	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Crawford	Mark	Academic Committee, Chair	2024	2
27	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Russell	Brian	Political Science, Student Appeals Committee, Chair	2024	1
28	X		LIBRARY	Huskey	Julie		2025	2
29	X		LAPS	Young- Seigler	Artenzia	Executive Committee, Chair	2024	2
30	X		LAPS	Okoro	Cosmas		2024	1
31	X		LAPS	Kelly	John		2024	2
32		X	LAPS	Guha	Sujata		2024	1
33	X		LAPS	Tiriveedhi	Venkataswarup	Executive Committee Chair- elect, Research Committee, Chair, Fair Funding Action Committee Chair	2024	2
34	X		PUBLIC SERVICE	Chilton	Kenneth	Professional Devel, Chair	2024	2
35	X		PUBLIC SERVICE	George	Cynthia	Faculty Benefits Welfare Committee, Chair	2024	1
36	X		Past-Chair (NON-MEMBER)	Triplett	Kimberly	Past-Chair	2024	
37	X		Faculty Trustee (NON-MEMBER)	Johnson	W. Bill	Current Trustee	2025	
38	X		Guest	Melton	Robbie	Provost, Interim VP Academic Affairs		
39	X		Guest	Schmeller	Eric	AVP		
40	X		Guest	Smith	Tina	Chair Council		
41	X		Guest	Jones	Gary	Graduate School		
42	X		LAPS	Phambu	Nsoki	Chemistry/LAPS		

43	x		Guest	Shelton	Mary			
44			Guest					
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