

Minutes for the meeting of the Tennessee State University Faculty Senate, 1/21/2016

In Attendance:

Muhammad Akbar, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering
Dorsuren Badamdorj, CLPS, Mathematical Sciences
Catherine Armwood, Engineering, Architectural Engineering
Diane Campbell, COHS, Nursing
Michael Catanzaro, CLA, LLP **Chair**
Sean Daniels, CLA, Music
Melissa Forte, CLA, Communications
Terrie Gibson, COHS, Speech Pathology
Patricio Jara, CLPS, Mathematical Sciences
John Kelly, CLPS, Mathematical Sciences **Secretary**
Show Mei Lin, Education, Teaching and Learning
Vaidas Lukosius, Business, BADM
John Miglietta, CLA, Political Science
Mozhgan Mirani, CLPS, Mathematics
Pinky Noble-Britton, COHS, Nursing
Kushal Patel, COHS, Public Health
Joyce Radcliff, Library, Library and Media Services
Achintya Ray, Business, Economics and Finance
Ann-Marie Rizzo, CPS, Public Administration
Sachin Shetty, Engineering, Electrical Engineering
Eric Vogel, Education, EDAD
Suping Zhou, CAHNS, Center for Prevention Research

College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences (CAHNS), College of Health Sciences (COHS), College of Liberal Arts (CLA), College of Life and Physical Sciences (CLPS), College of Public Service (CPS)

Meeting called to order at 2:41 PM without a quorum. A quorum is achieved at 2:44 PM.

II. Minutes are approved (14 ayes, zero nays, and one abstention) without discussion. (Patel moves and is seconded.)

III. Faculty poll to gauge interest in changing the grading scale: Dr. Catanzaro prepared a draft of the language of a poll for the faculty. It has 3 options – plus / minus, plus only, or no change. Dr. Ray comments that since the plus only system is used at only institution, perhaps we should only have two options. Dr. Miglietta points out that it is possible to not get a majority with 3 options. A motion is made to amend the survey to include only two options: plus / minus and no change. (Ray moves, Lukosius seconds) Dr. Akbar asks if we should include information about the numbers of institutions that adopt each system. Dr. Catanzaro suggests the survey be kept simple, and does not have that extra information, and is met with general agreement. Dr.

Lukosius asks how the system might benefit students, and Dr. Ray argues that the finer granularity of the system would help students who are near the top of each grade range. It would hurt people near the bottom of each grade range, of course. Dr. Catanzaro points out that it might be that C- will not be a passing grade for Gen Ed courses. Several faculty disagree with that, but Dr. Catanzaro points out that other institutions do not consider C- to be passing for Gen Ed courses. It is certainly possible that we can re-write catalog descriptions to make C- explicitly the passing grade for Gen Ed courses. The motion to remove the one option passes unanimously, and Dr. Catanzaro will send the survey to IT.

IV. Three Amendments to the Constitution were approved last semester. One of the amendments created an At-Large position for the Faculty Senate to attend TBR Sub-Council meeting. Dr. Catanzaro points out this is almost certainly not needed any more due to upcoming changes in the structure of TBR. Since Faculty Senate chair already attends the meetings, TSU will still be represented while TBR is still active. Dr. Lukosius moves (Ray seconds) to simply postpone the Amendment until we have more clarity about TBR, or it becomes irrelevant because TBR is no longer over TSU. The motion passes unanimously.

V. Dr. Catanzaro requests that all outgoing Senators arrange elections for their replacements as soon as possible. Dr. Catanzaro also recommends that Senators recruit for the soon to be vacated Executive Committee positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. Dr. Patel mentions that traditionally his College has selected Senator at another time. Dr. Catanzaro stresses that these elections must happen this semester, in whatever manner a College sees fit.

We now move to item IX, an IT presentation on Cyber Security. John Burgher and Travis Chance are the presenters. They touch on some recent moves, such as limiting administrator access on computers. They remind faculty to exercise extreme caution in following links in emails. They emphasize that the main goal of cyber security is to make it harder to break in, not impossible. They understand that limiting the ability to install software is frustrating for faculty, but they have the ability at the Help Desk to quickly install software as needed. A theme of the presentation is that IT issues have gotten much better in the last few months, and give IT a chance to help and serve you again. If you need something, call the Help Desk and ask. They are working very hard on getting requests cleared much faster. Dr. Ray brings up problems he's had with the size limit of his email, and how Dr. Campbell had to spend her own money to set up a Dropbox to store files related to approving CARFs. Dr. Ray mentions that Gmail gives you a free 15 GB account, so why is TSU limited to 500 MB? Mr. Chance says that they are working on increasing email sizes, and they can increase email storage on a case by case basis – just ask. Dr. Catanzaro mentions that he's had problems with myTSU, and Mr. Chance acknowledges that myTSU is bad. The issue of Mac support comes up, and Mr. Chance responds that while some folks are going to do some training, they really need to hire a dedicated Mac person, which they're trying to do as positions open up. Dr. Ray brings up the idea of Google Apps, which would be an inexpensive turnkey solution for most of these issues. IT really does not want to give up control of their systems, so they're not interested in that.

VI. Dr. Catanzaro updates on some of the items that Senate has been working on for some time. Dr. Catanzaro sent out some changes that have been made to the Chair Hiring policy and Non-Instructional Assignment Grant. On the advice of counsel, the major change to the Chair Hiring policy is that there is no statement that a chair needs the support of the majority the faculty to be retained. Only the Dean and Chief Academic Officer have decision making power on that. However, the system does still have clear and strong mechanisms for faculty feedback, which were very weak before. Some Senators are unhappy that no amount of faculty dissatisfaction can directly remove a Chair, but this is the only policy that will work. The Non-Instructional Assignment Grant is essentially done, with some very minor changes. They just got feedback on the Sick Bank proposal, and they want to review that and make changes. The goal is to submit all three proposals at once. The faculty handbook committee is working very hard to complete it, and the draft handbook is very nearly done.

VII. Since the Senate voted to create an Ad Hoc committee to help organize the TUFs meeting, we need volunteers and a chair. Dr. Ray makes a motion that Dr. Catanzaro should chair the Ad Hoc committee, and Dr. Lukosius seconds the motion. Dr. Catanzaro accepts the nomination, and the motion passes unanimously. Senators who are willing to serve on the committee should email Dr. Catanzaro. Governor Haslam's office has been contacted, but he does not schedule that far in advance. Dr. Catanzaro will contact his office 30 days in advance to request his attendance.

VIII. Faculty Senate Webmaster – we have a student who will be webmaster, and receive course credit for the experience. Dr. Michelle Pinkard will oversee her work, with the input of Dr. Kelly (Secretary).

X. Committee Reports – Dr. Catanzaro postpones committee reports until next meeting, as many committees have not met yet. He does, however, encourage chairs who have members who do not attend meetings to remove those members, and have them replaced.

Dr. Ray asks that the IT committee investigate Google Apps for TSU, and Dr. Kelly agrees to put it on the agenda.

XI. Dr. Ray mentions the very fine work by Dr. Campbell and the CARF committee and the Senate recognizes her service. Dr. Catanzaro states that the CARF committee is asking to limit CARFs to 10 per semester per department.

Dr. Mirani asks that the faculty handbook committee look at who should have voting rights at the department level.

Dr. Catanzaro adjourns the meeting at 4:02, and reminds the Senate that the next meeting is February 18th at 2:40 PM.