

Minutes for the meeting of the Tennessee State University Faculty Senate, 4/16/2015

In Attendance:

Jane Asamani, Education, Teaching and Learning
Thomas Broyles, Ag and Environmental Science, CAHNS
Michael Catanzaro, Liberal Arts, English
Deo Chimba, Engineering
Sam Comer, CAHNS, Agricultural Sciences
Sean Daniels, Liberal Arts, Music
John Dossett, Education, Psychology
John Kelly, Engineering, Math and Physics (Secretary pro-tem)
John Miglietta, Liberal Arts, History etc.
Rebecca Moore, CPSUA, Social Work
Kushal Patel, COHS
Amir Shirkhodaie, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering
Sachin Shetty, Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Robert Smith, Criminal Justice
Artenzia Young-Seigler, CAHNS, Biology

Meeting called to order at 2:42 PM.

Item 3: Approve minutes distributed via email, and voted upon via email. Sen. Catanzaro moves, Sen. Comer seconds.

Item 4: Vote on Establishing a Faculty Sick Leave Bank. 22 yes votes via email; Sen. Miglietta and Sen. Asamani add votes in person; final tally 24-yes, 0-no, 1-abstain. Approved. Note: Sen. Miglietta informs the senate that he needs 20 signatures to officially get process started; signature sheet is distributed.

Item 5: Committee / Chairperson reports

Item 5a: Chairperson meeting with VPAA: The office hours proposal is approved, but the senate needs to finalize the language. The proposal is very close to being complete, and will likely start in Fall 2015 semester. All faculty comments on the post-tenure review policy have been forwarded to VPAA. Any additional comments received by senators should be forwarded to Dr. Young-Seigler, who will send them on to the VPAA. A post-tenure review policy does exist at the TBR level, but we do not have a copy of it and it is understood to not be clearly written.

VPAA is still doing a faculty salary schedule study. VPAA said that the faculty salary schedule will likely be updated to 2014 for the Fall 2015 semester. Sen. Miglietta asks about progress toward TSU salaries attaining parity with other TBR institutions; VPAA has committed to that goal, but there is no firm deadline yet.

Dr. Young-Seigler discussed class cancellations for events this semester, and the VPAA reaffirmed his commitment to not cancelling classes for events. The Honors Convocation was due to a last minute change. They've already planned out the calendar of events for Fall semester, and all events are scheduled on Fridays.

Block scheduling of students is not going at all well so far – students are getting pre-assigned schedules. Returning students are not able to register because of blocks. In the next week or so it might be fixed; contact President Glover, Dr. Moseley, or VPAA with problems.

Parking update: There will be 3 designated areas for faculty parking separate from students. There will be general faculty parking, reserved spaces, and gated parking. They will all have different fee levels, with \$180 for a gated spot. Any areas that are gated now will be gated going into the future.

Our concerns about the disrepair of campus areas have been discussed with Cynthia Brooks, and she has asked that we give a list of concerns to her.

Item 8: Elections is now moved forward to ensure completion. Sen. Miglietta is elected Parliamentarian unanimously. Chair-elect is tabled until Fall semester due to lack of nominations unanimously. Thomas Broyles self-nominates for Treasurer; there are no other nominations. Sen. Broyles is elected unanimously. The following senators are nominated for committee chair positions: Committee 1 - Academic Committee: Thomas Broyles. Committee 2 – Alumni Relations – Robert Smith. Committee 4 – Constitution and By-Laws: Michael Catanzaro. Committee 8: Faculty Benefits and Welfare: John Miglietta. Committee 13 – Research: Sachin Shetty. There are no other nominations; all are approved unanimously.

All other election items are tabled to fall semester; approved unanimously.

Sen. Shirkhodaie suggests that we create a formal process to create a letter of commendation for the most productive senator each semester.

Item 5d: Election of senators; amend the constitution to allow senators to be elected in the spring to start the fall term; the proposed amendment reads as follows:

Tennessee State University Constitution PART THREE, ARTICLE II, Section 3. Elections

b) Elections of new Senators and Alternates shall be conducted annually by the Units at the first Unit meeting in January. (Amendment I, April 16, 2015)

- Since the constitution calls for Faculty Senate officers and committee chairs to be elected during the Faculty Senate meeting in April, elections for new Senators and Alternates must occur during college and department meetings in January. This will allow the newly elected Senators to participate in the April elections and allow them to hold an office or to chair a committee.

- Newly elected Senators are strongly encouraged to attend the senate meetings during the spring semester as alternates or as guests, so they will be familiar with the Senate business and procedures when they start their term.

A vote is held to remove the second bullet point; approved unanimously.

The remaining text of the amendment is approved unanimously.

Item 5b, ii: Faculty leave policy is proposed in the form of a non-instruction assignment grant. It is very similar to a policy in place at MTSU. It would be a competitive grant which will be awarded based on justification for leave. VPAA is generally in favor of a leave policy, but finding funding will be a challenge. There is a motion to send the proposal to VPAA and Dr. Crumpton-Young for consideration. Dr. Shirkhodaie suggest that it should primarily go to Dr. Crumpton-Young and cc VPAA, but that suggestion is not adopted. The motion is unanimously approved.

Item 5c: Budget report. We have two accounts; one account is through the TSU Foundation, and that account currently has \$40. That account does not roll-over every year. We also have \$859.22 in the E & G account; those funds will be lost on 6/30/2015 if not used. We are going to try to have the phone line removed from the senate account, since we do not use it and are also not the only users of the space. It is suggested that we use some funds to get plaques to honor the work of Sens. Miglietta, Shirkhodaie, and Young-Seigler. We will need to create an official budget in the Fall semester for using senate funds.

Item 5f: The research committee is still working on how reimbursed overhead funds on research grants are distributed; currently, they go back to the deans. The committee feels the funds should go back to department accounts instead. Dr. Crumpton-Young approves of the idea, but needs an official faculty senate motion to move forward. It is moved to send a senate recommendation to send money back to the PI or department. The motion is approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

Item 7c: The final exam schedule has undergone some late changes due to faculty requests; it should now be finalized.

Item 7d: Final grades – if you ever get any requests from administration to change grades, ask that requestor put it in writing and sign request.

Item 7f: No meeting for May is called, as all agenda items are completed.

Item 9: Outgoing senators are recognized for their service.

Item 10: The gavel is passed from Dr. Young-Seigler to Dr. Catanzaro. Dr. Shirkhodaie requests that Dr. Young-Seigler is guest at first Fall meeting.

Item 11: Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10 PM.