

Minutes for the meeting of the Tennessee State University Faculty Senate, 9/17/2015

In Attendance:

Catherine Armwood, Engineering, Architectural Engineering
Beverly Brown, COHS, Nursing
Thomas Broyles, CAHNS, Ag and Environmental Science **Treasurer**
Diane Campbell, COHS, Nursing
Michael Catanzaro, Liberal Arts, LLP **Chair**
Sean Daniels, Liberal Arts, Music
John Dossett, Education, Psychology
Melissa Forte, CLA, Communications
John Kelly, CLPS, Math and Physics **Secretary**
Show Mei Lin, COE, Teaching and Learning
Vaidas Lukosius, Business, BADM
Brenda McAdory, CLPS, Biology
John Miglietta, Liberal Arts, Political Science **Parliamentarian**
Pinky Noble-Britton, COHS, Nursing
Nsoki Phambu, Science and Mathematics, Chemistry
Achintya Ray, Business, Economics and Finance
Joyce Radcliffe, Library and Media Services
Ann-Marie Rizzo, CPS, Public Administration
Robert Smith, Liberal Arts, Criminal Justice
Blair Thornton, COHS, HPSS
Eleni Coukos Elder, Education, Educational Leadership
Suping Zhou, CAHNS, Prevention Research

I. Meeting was called to order at 2:42 PM with a quorum

II. August minutes were approved unanimously. (Move to approve: Dr. Ray, Seconded Dr. Miglietta)

III. Update on Senate Committee members as attachment; still waiting for a few colleges to submit names. Dr. Catanzaro encourages us to meet with Committees as soon as possible to determine the business for the semester and set a meeting schedule to accomplish these tasks.

IV. Dr. Achintya Ray is nominated as Chair-Elect (Move: Dr. Miglietta moves, Dr. Vaidas seconds); Dr. Ray accepts the nomination. There are no other nominations. Dr. Ray briefly speaks about his vision for Faculty Senate. He cites the two roles of the Senate is to champion the faculty, and play a constructive role in the future direction of the university. He notes the potential tension between these two roles. Dr. Ray is elected unanimously.

V. Dr. Catanzaro reminds the Senate about the Faculty Gala and the possibility for a Senate Table. There are currently not enough Senators paid and going to fill our table.

VI. Dr. Catanzaro gives a summary of his very positive experiences at the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) meeting. He had the opportunity to talk to some high ranking people about mainstreaming students and felt like he (and the other Faculty Senators) were taken very seriously. TSU is the only institution that has not hosted a TUFS meeting, and Dr. Catanzaro would like for us to host in September 2016. It is moved (Dr. Rizzo) that TSU host the meeting in 2016. If the Senate has to pay for the entirety of the meeting, it will be our entire budget for that academic year. The Senate will ask for money from President Glover to host. The Executive Committee will work on a proposal for pricing. The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Updates (note: the agenda has a lot of information on these topics)

- a) Faculty Handbook – see agenda; Dr. Johnson has not communicated with Dr. Catanzaro (despite multiple requests.) SACS accreditation is driving a quick timeline – administration needs a draft by the end of the semester for that purpose.

- b) Non-instructional assignment grants – see agenda; a proposal is being drafted and is supported all the way up the Administration. The proposal will be very detailed, but what is known for sure now is tenure track faculty will NOT be eligible. As a note, this is very similar to a sabbatical, but this is a competitive process and some creative work must be produced during the grant period.

- c) Proposal to revise Department Chair Hiring Policy – Dr. Catanzaro has produced a simplified process that is outlined in the Agenda.

- d) Return overhead funds on research grants – according to VP Cynthia Brooks, overhead funds should be credited to research accounts at department levels starting October 1, 2015

- e) Faculty Sick Banks – final draft is with Dr. Hardy

- f) Parking – Administration feels faculty has been properly dealt with through gated and reserved spots. If faculty want spots separate from students they need to pay extra for it.

- g) Faculty salary schedule – see agenda. It's still in process, is largely being held up by work on Staff Salary schedule.

- h) See agenda; Mr. Pendleton recommends a change in the Constitution that allows the Senate to vote to make changes how the Senate does business by a 2/3rd vote of Senators instead of amendments to the Constitution.

VIII. Action Items – the vote to change the Faculty Senate meetings to the third Friday of each month at 10:00 AM failed, so meetings are still at 2:40 PM on the third Thursday of each month.

IX. Discussion Items

a. Grade appeal process – Dr. Catanzaro will work with Dr. Hardy to create a committee to look at appeals that works after the College process but before the VPAA.

b. Grade system to add +/- to current system. A discussion is held about the advantages and disadvantages of such a system, especially on how the grade of C- will affect graduation rates, accreditation, student motivation, and other topics. The biggest factor that is mentioned is that different colleges would have different impacts from the process. It is decided that we will not send out a University wide poll, but will gather information from individual departments first.

c. Academic advisors need to be clearly identified on departmental websites, including name, email, phone number, and office hours. Dr. Vaidas requests a better online system for students to declare and track majors. It is suggested this would be a good agenda item for the Information Technology Committee.

d. Dr. Hardy will work with CIT and attempt to prevent students who have withdrawn or never attended a course from completing evaluations

e. See agenda

f. Workload credit on multiple sections – Dr. Hardy is reviewing this issue, he claims that larger classes do not need extra workload because they have extra salary and or teaching assistants. It is discussed that other Universities have much more organized system to deal with this.

g. See agenda – Dr. Hardy is reviewing course ceilings with TBR.

h. Funds for course development – there are none at the University level

i. Dr. Hardy is working on a time during the 4 day schedule where no classes will be scheduled

j. There were several comments / complaints about the 4 day schedule and book bundle. Dr. Catanzaro will talk to the administration about any sort of research / analysis being done on these two topics

XII. Dr. Vaidas motions to adjourn, Dr. Kelly seconds, unanimously approved