

Meeting Minutes
Tennessee State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Date: April 15, 2021
Time: 2:40 PM-4:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

Minutes taken by Senator Karen Smith, Secretary.

Item #	Agenda Item	Motions by	Motions seconded by
1	2:40-2:43 PM Welcome & Call to Order & presentation of the agenda Senator Triplett, Chair called the meeting to order. She has requested the attendees to mute their microphone and comment in the chat box.		
2	2:43-2:46 PM Consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 19, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson Triplett 	Senator Gishe
3	2:47 – 3.05 Report from TSU Board Meeting-March 11, 2021 • Dr. Ali Sekmen, Faculty Trustee Dr. Sekmen gave a summary for 11 minutes and then took questions for 7 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee committee meetings last about 5 hours, lunch break, then board meeting • President and Provost explained COVID-19 in multiple settings • Online education started in fall 2020 and continued in spring 2021 • This upcoming fall has been discussed in the board and 2 programs were terminated. Design concentration in the BS in family consumer science program and school of psychology concentration in the PhD in psychology and was approved by the board • We have a new concentration in the master of science and data science that was approved. This will be hopefully approved next month by THEC. This is an interdisciplinary program that brings computer science, mathematics, engineering, biology, business, agricultural sciences together and will be fully online to start in fall 2021. TSU expects that this is going to bring a lot of student in upcoming years. • Dr. Harris gave a detailed discussion about the preparation for the SACSCOC visit • Budget and Finance Committee meeting: We received funding from the CARES act. We have 2 rounds of CARES money that came to TSU and 1 is called Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Initially we got \$3.6 million in emergency grants for students and 3.6 million dollars for institutional use. • We received \$16.2 million for HBCU with the first round of CARES and then we have the second round we got 3.6 million. \$9.7 million for institutional use and \$28.1 million for HBCU and the total for the 2 rounds, based on my calculation is about \$56.9 million and we had conversations about the allocations of that funds. More detailed conversation about it will be in the June meeting. • The proposed budget for the fiscal year 2020 and for fiscal year 21 will be submitted to the board in the June meeting • Here is a brief summary of the of the enrollment numbers: 		

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- Graduate level 1384
- Undergraduate level 4559 with total head count 5900
- This is a 2% decline from the previous spring semester 2020 with graduate enrollment up about 11 % but undergraduate enrollment was down about 5%
- FTE graduate 802 and undergraduate 4378 with total 5180 FTE in enrollment
- Issues with the enrollment management system were discussed
- Audits were discussed
- I-9 forms in HR were discussed. Some international faculty will understand this that 7-8 years ago I tried to hire an international faculty with a PhD degree from us and he had a work permit. He was allowed to work at institutions only if they have E verify system. I had a conversation with the university council and I signed up the computer science department to be E verified.
- I got trained y the Department of Homeland Security and I handled all HR I-9 forms within the department by myself for 3.5 years.
- I had the conversation with the board if HR will be interested in having an E verify system at TSU so that we can have potentially more people to be able to hire and they are going to consider it.
- In March was the president’s annual performance evaluation and this process was remanded to the board and the summary of the process was given to the executive committee.

Questions:

Dr. Burks: Is there any chance to get any of that money spent on improving the ventilation to CDC standards?

Dr. Sekmen: I mean, I fully understand, I mean how important the ventilation system is the high quality filters, I mean the regular filters I'm not going to work, but I don't know the detailed breakdown of how the money is going to be spent, but clearly, I mean some of the money is related to improving our providing an education environment due to COVID 19 so Dr. Burk's I don't know, in particular, about that filter and other issues, but those questions needs to be directed, I think, Dr. Curtis Johnson or President for details.

Senator Sibulkin: Asked about the ventilation and the Provost Town Hall meeting for it to be a question for the CARES money.

Chairperson Triplett: I think that would be an excellent time to bring that up because it is my understanding from the emails is that Provost Harris is going to share his vision.

Senator Sibulkin: Is someone agreeing to ask that question?

Dr. Burks: If no one else wants to ask the question, I can help you for the Senate as a whole.

Dr. Fasoro: Expressed concerns for enrollment and what problems are the administration identifying.

Trustee Sekmen: I am aware of the enrollment and normal issues including the faculty senate and the Provost Harris, Mosely, and Hardy. More revenue producing enrollment with higher achieving students with ACT and GPA and provide more scholarship opportunities to compete with MTSU and our peers

Senator Quick: Echoed the sentiment and voiced concern for declining enrollment and wants the Faculty Trustee to pose the questions to the board and that the strongest voice on campus is the faculty senate. We

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	<p>have had declining enrollment by 50% or more we have been put on probation and had two murders in the last eight years.</p> <p>Trustee Sekmen: We should have the hard conversations as long as it is within the family.</p> <p>Chairperson Triplett: I will bring this up to the Executive Committee, and we can work on some type of meeting or some meeting with Provost Harris and President Glover over the summer, because, as you all know the faculty senate, we're still functioning body, but the Faculty Senate Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Faculty Senate during the summer. So that will be on our top of our agenda, I know we have a committee that's trying to work on that, but we can as executive committee try to see what we can do to push this issue and see what kind of plans, the administration has on dealing with this enrollment decrease, and what can we do as faculty and especially faculty Senate to get our voices heard and to make sure we are participating in the decision making on this, because this is important and we see that current decline. We would like to thank Dr. Sekmen for over the years, bringing these top issues to us. We know with the enrollment numbers going down and with the budget that these have been our two ongoing issues since I've been on faculty senate, so thank you.</p> <p>We had a couple of comments in the chat I just want to quickly say Senator Shelton mentioned that \$57 million and CARES money equates to about \$13,020 per undergraduate FTE. And then, Dr. Sheldon also mentioned, according to the TSU institutional research guide and undergraduate enrollment. In 2011- 2012 was 9165 and we're below 6000 today, so this is a major concern and, as I mentioned we're going to deal with that as an executive body to make sure our voices are heard as faculty Senate.</p>		
4	<p>Committee Reports • Committee Chairs (2-3 minutes)</p> <p>Chairperson Triplett: Remember, to try to get those committee reports in a shared folder a week before our meeting, so I can go ahead and combine those and prepare those for the meeting materials for upcoming meeting.</p>		
	<p>Time: 3:10 STANDING Committee Reports</p>		
	<p>Academic Committee (M. Crawford)</p> <p>I was able to speak with Dr. Curtis Johnson regarding any kind of parking reimbursement or credit and he basically said that that would present a financial hardship on their department, because those fees help pay for the staff that patrol people and those kind of things, certainly to reimburse would be moving backwards and then any kind of credit moving forward would dilute your source of income, he noted that those gated areas, parking areas have to be paid for that's how some of this is being paid for. And then he also noted that, as compared to metro parking and some other parking our parking is actually cheaper. He said it should be \$20 a month, which is about double what we're paying just for a regular parking spot so anyway bottom line is it looks like we just get what we get and we'll look forward to resuming use of our reserved parking spot.</p> <p>He also received an email about the advising process and will follow up with it.</p> <p>Chairperson Triplett stated it is a concern with the use of the senior standing forms changing to degree works and not always registering transfer credits and being updated. She would like Senator Crawford to address this in the fall.</p>		

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<p>Alumni Relations and Development Committee (R. Fleming) Senator Fleming: This committee met last Friday with Ms. Deborah Howard (Alumni Relations Director) to go over the vision for the alumni relations and our committee and she plans to be reinstating the student list call Center to reach out to alumni monthly to inform them of activities that have taken place within the university and with faculty: getting faculty involved in the alumni directory updates when we have students graduating from my colleges are conducting workshops for colleges on how to raise funds and working with alumni relations and scholarship campaigns. Ms. Howard said that she has some more ideas or initiatives that she will be bringing forth in August, when we get back to school, so thank you. Chairperson Triplett asked if there was a place for faculty or alumni to upload their information. Senator Fleming: Not at this time but Ms. Howard is very interested in using technology for this.</p>		
<p>Budget Committee (A. Young-Seigler) Not here</p>		
<p>Constitution and By-laws Committee (J. Jackson) Dr. Burks: The committee was delegated talking about the SACSCOC credentials issue, the main thing that we think that colleges need to do, because we think it's within the realm of the ability of colleges, is to define related discipline when it comes to teaching in a teaching discipline a lot of other universities have specific policies for it, so we, as a faculty and then in share governance should be able to find related discipline, for the purposes of our teaching and will try to get that wording for our lawyers.</p>		
<p>Curriculum Committee (K. Smith) Senator Smith: We have a spring total of 30 CARF-PARFs processed and this time last year we had about 100 with many getting their goals accomplished. We have 28 approved and 2 being revised right now. We had a 2017 CARF inquiry last week and it never went past the College level. 2 years ago we were all paper, then switched to email and electronic signatures and we are now moving to Curriculog. We recently had an introductory Curriculog training university wide. Curriculog will allow for each originator department to keep up with their CARFs.</p>		
<p>Faculty Benefits and Welfare Committee (E. Phillips) Not here</p>		
<p>Faculty Grievance and Appeals Committee (P. Flott) Senator Flott: report is provided; met on 3-26 with one grievance and she has sent recommendations for it. They are working on a platform that will allow faculty to upload to the website.</p>		
<p>Information Technology Committee (K. Al-Nasr) Not here</p>		
<p>Nomination and Appointment Committee (C. Brown) Senator Brown: Committee will mee the 23rd to discuss the upcoming positions that will be available on the Senate this next academic year and, hopefully, we will have a list that we can bring back in the fall, that is that shows the vacant seats in each college in any other updates regarding</p>		

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	<p>positions that we need to be filled will be shared, during that time so I'll keep you posted on that.</p>		
	<p>Library Committee (A. Sloss) Senator Sloss-Pridgen: We actually had two separate meetings, one of the meetings was to discuss the faculty select service at the library provides for faculty. That information is uploaded to the shared folder and its extensive video just kind of shows faculty how to do if something is costing too much money but they would like let's say I want electronic textbook how they can access it through the library how the interim will work with them to make sure they can get the resources for their classes, so that information is there with the think I need to update the word document just to put the link to faculty select and then we had a special meeting. Previously we had talked about the library committee charges, and so the library committee of faculty senate held a special meeting to discuss those current committee charges.</p> <p>And the current library committee of the Faculty senate charges are ensuring that library services and collections meet the teaching, research and public service needs of the university and reviewing library policies procedures and practices that facilitate the use of resources in technology in the past year or so we've had some challenges with just how that current charge was is written for explanation to say, for instance, previous leaders of the library, so the Committee, after much discussion and research, which was looking at other university sites what their charges weren't. We voted unanimously that we would like to amend the current charge to state: The University library committee serves in an advisory capacity in guiding the strategic direction of Tennessee State University libraries and support of the teaching, research and public service needs of the university stakeholders to fulfill this role, the committee may review and advise regarding library plans policies and procedures, as well as any major changes to be undertaken regarding library services collections or infrastructure, whether they may be, digital, as well as physical.</p> <p>We feel this changes more detailed in its language and what help guide activities of the library committee of the Faculty Senate, in the future. And all the current Members like I said they voted unanimously all 15 I think there's about 15 of us, and we would like, for the Faculty Senate, or even the Executive Committee in the future to consider those proposed changes to be current amendment only because we've like I said we did have somebody know the head to what the general purpose of the library and the other faculty senate was and some had expressed that there was some type of loophole and how that was being interpreted and to amend it to be a little bit more specific, so it kind of resolves those loopholes and gives a clear mission of what we need to do and how to work with the interim the current interim director.</p> <p>Dr. Triplett: What I would like to do, and it's up to the faculty senate body if we will work on that amendment over the summer and then bring it to the Faculty Senate in the fall so, then we can vote and try to get that amended to the Constitution. We will look at it at the executive committee, then the faculty senate, then release it to the full body and give them time to review so we can do a final vote so we can add that amendment into the constitution to amend the duties of the library committee.</p>		

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	<p>Professional Development Committee (K. Chilton) Senator Chilton: Nothing really to report we're going to work over the summer to maybe try to come up with a university wide program around various themes that we can maybe then pilot come October. The meantime and I want to point out that there still is money available through the provost office or virtual conferences in such that I don't think we've used all that money yet so that's what we're going to be working on over the summer.</p>		
	<p>Research Committee (V. Tiriveedhi) Senator Tiriveedhi: giving a separate detailed report</p>		
	<p>Student Appeals Committee (Q.Quick) Senator Quick: nothing to report Chairperson Triplett: She used to review appeals in the summer. She will email Dr. Deams and Dr. Harris about it.</p>		
	<p>Post Tenure Review Committee (w. Boadi) Not here</p>		
5	<p>3:33– 4:08 Research Committee Report over Research Faculty Incentive Policy Recommendations • Senator Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi, Chair of the Research Committee Senator Tiriveedhi: The basic idea behind this research incentive policy, as we all will agree, this is to help faculty who are doing research and bringing in extra mural funding from federal and state agencies. To TSU as a result, they are helping students with their research, undergraduate researchers and graduate students towards that tuition and also we all know, once the Faculty is funded they are marketable. Their market value increases and they start bargaining outside and go into the free market to bargain. I, at the same time, not from the Faculty side, but from the TSU side, TSU has just received an R2 research status couple of years ago and, hopefully, our intent is that will promote and encourage research culture at TSU so that will move from our to R1 Institute. See attached Research Incentive policy proposal. Trustee elect Johnson: : Well thought out to that I'm impressed with that so that's a good movement, the question I have is regarding the base pay piece does the base pay chains become permanent from that point on, or does the base pay change or expire at the end of the grant. Senator Tiriveedhi: The base pay has to continue from that time onwards. And the logic behind that is that, let us think about it, if faculty is going into the marketplace, they are bargaining for a salary change right which is the assumption is that salaries for the rest of their life or until they work in that corporate sector. Trustee Sekmen: But I have a lot of saying to do tier one tier five on your logic, I believe there must be some further conversations because : We don't have time to discuss it here, but I can see that there will be some obstacles and we need to think more the timeframe amount and I don't have time to discuss, but I will be happy to meet with you and your committee to give my feedback. Chairperson Triplett: We are extremely grateful to the Research Committee which has been working really hard. I would like to put a motion</p>	Chairperson Triplett	Vice Chair Young-Seigler

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	<p>out to have faculty senators’ review in detail, your report. And then we can come back in the fall and bring our edits and ideas so people can bring their comments. We just don't have time today, so what are you doing Dr. Tiriveedhi, if you can email me your PowerPoint and I know you're going to be doing this SharePoint team, but this way well can start looking at every point in this report.</p> <p>So what I would like to do is make a motion that faculty senators will review in detail the research faculty incentive policy recommendation that came from the research committee and then we'll reconvene and discuss at our August meeting.</p> <p>Senator Sibulkin: That is a discussable motion. Does the salary revert back or not? She would like that written out as part of the policy.</p> <p>Senator Tiriveedhi: I can do that and it will be in the modified report that I will send out in 1-2 days.</p> <p>Chairperson Triplett: I would like to make another motion: To have faculty senators, review the updated modified report from Dr. Tiriveedhi over the research faculty incentive policy recommendation.</p> <p>Trustee elect Johnson: Chairs can’t create motion in Robert’s rules.</p> <p>Dr. Young-Seigler: I will make the same motion</p> <p>Senator Quick: I second it.</p> <p>Chairperson Triplett: I will make sure our parliamentarian looks over the protocols for making motions.</p> <p>Senator Dennis: I will do that.</p>		
6	<p>4:14 – 4:19</p> <p>Next Steps for Amendment #6 • Senator Karen Smith, Secretary of the Faculty Senate</p> <p>Senator Smith: shared screen of the original amendment with examples of proposed language over the point about having worked at TSU a minimum of 5 years.</p> <p>Chairperson Triplett: is checking with President Glover to see if she will put the 3 hours of release time for the Trustee in a letter.</p> <p>Senator Smith: I would like to make that motion that at this time that we would ask senators to consider Amendment six revisions and to be able to have those revisions sent to the Executive Committee and be ready to have further discussion at our August meeting.</p> <p>Senator Dennis: second</p>	Smith	Dennis
7	<p>Senator Brown: introduced Dr. Johnson</p> <p>Trustee Elect Johnson: I do accept. So, I thank you so very much I’m greatly deeply honored. But I'm greatly impressed by the actions that I heard this morning, this afternoon about the interest in gaining control over the processes and the policies that affect each and every one of our faculty members, your request for transparency, several times is a critical piece in so I'm very, very pleased and I feel very comfortable. That the fact we said it is standing on its own feet and has a voice that I will be bringing as Ali Sekmen did to the Board and the voice has value has weight and strength behind it, and I believe it has forced find it so I'm greatly honored. I do want to take this a few seconds here to thank alley for blazing the trail. He has successfully educated, the members of the board as to how a university actually works and has driven their focus to attend to their true fiduciary responsibility outlined by the by the State legislature and I intend to continue to push forward. And for transparency and for shared governance</p>		

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	so Ali Thank you so much, you certainly make those of us who follow you in your path make the trail a little less steep and a little less swampy and so thank you so much.		
8	4.08– 4.15 Update on Faculty Senators Terms for next Academic School Year • Senator Karen Smith, Secretary of Faculty Senate Chairperson Triplett: Senator Smith mailed out a senator and chair list asking for the number of terms and years for each person. Contact her with this information. Senator Jane Jackson and Senator Boadi are coming off as chairs and we will need chairs for these standing committees: Constitution and bylaws and Post Tenure & Review committees. Senator Smith: also need a chair of the curriculum committee		
9	Time: 4.15 – 4.30 New Business Senator Kimberly Triplett, Chair of the Faculty Senate Chairperson Triplett: Our next meeting for the fall will take place virtually on Thursday August 26, 2021. This meeting date is due to classes starting during the third week. Sometimes Faculty Senate will have the first meeting after the first week of classes to give faculty time to adjust. So, would one of the faculty senate executive committee members like to make that motion? Senator Young-Seigler: I move that we have our first faculty senate meeting virtually on August 26th. Chairperson Triplett: any discussion? Senator Brown: second Chairperson Triplett: Virtual session with Provost Harris (Provost Town Hall Meeting) is tomorrow. NIA grant awardees: Dr. Ghan Bhatt, Xiaoming Li, John Miglietta, Janice Williams.	Young-Seigler	Brown
10	Adjournment Time: 4:30 pm		

Faculty Senator Attendance:

	Present	Absent	College	Last Name	First Name	Position
1		X	AGRICULTURE	De Koff	Jason	
2	X		AGRICULTURE	Khanal	Aditya	
3	X		AGRICULTURE	Fleming	Rita	Treasurer Alumni Rel & Dev Com, Chair
4	X		AGRICULTURE	Dennis	Samuel	Parliamentarian
5		X	AGRICULTURE	Chen	Fur-Chi	
6		X	BUSINESS	Jolayemi	Joel	
7	X		BUSINESS	Marquis	Gerald	
8		X	BUSINESS	Jackson	Jane	Constitution and By-laws, Chair
9	X		BUSINESS	Flott	Phyllis	Fac Grievance & Appeals, Chair
10	X		EDUCATION	Roberts	Twianie	(3/12/21 start)
11	X		EDUCATION	Sibulkin	Amy	
12	X		EDUCATION	Vogel	Eric	
13		X	ENGINEERING	McCurry	Charles	
14	X		ENGINEERING	Fasoro	Abiodun	
15		X	ENGINEERING	Al Nasr	Kamal	Info Technology Com, Chair
16	X		COHS	Brown	Charles	Nom & Appointment, Chair

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17		X	COHS	Charles	Derek	
18	X		COHS	Gishe	Jemal	
19	X		COHS	Raynes	Edilberto	
20	X		COHS	Smith (former Coker)	Karen	Secretary Curriculum Committee, Chair
21		X	LIBERAL ARTS	Chaires	Mark	
22	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Klomegah	Roger	
23		X	LIBERAL ARTS	Phillips	Elaine	Fac Benefits & Welfare, Chair
24	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Crawford	Mark	Academic Committee, Chair
25	X		LIBERAL ARTS	Bekele	Gashawbeza	
26	X		LIBRARY	Sloss	Angel	Library Committee, Chair
27	X		LAPS	Young- Seigler	Artenzia	Chair-Elect Budget Committee, Chair
28		X	LAPS	Boadi	William	Post Tenure Review, Chair
29		X	LAPS	Kelly	John	
30	X		LAPS	Quick	Quincy	Student Appeals Com, Chair
31	X		LAPS	Tiriveedhi	Venkataswarup	Research Committee, Chair
32	X		PUBLIC SERVICE	Triplett	Kimberly	Executive Committee, Chair
33	X		PUBLIC SERVICE	Chilton	Kenneth	Professional Devel, Chair
	X		Past-Chair (NON- MEMBER)	Burks	Geoffrey	Past-Chair
	X		Faculty Trustee (NON- MEMBER)	Sekmen	Ali	
	X		Guest Newly elected Faculty Trustee	Dr. Bill Johnson		
			Guests			3 attendees with cell phone numbers or codes