

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 19, 2015
Room 302 FPCC
2:40 p.m – 4:00.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Approval of October Minutes (attachment)

III. Grading System (attachment)

- a. **Change grade system from whole grades (A, B, C, D, F) to a plus minus system**
- b. **I have attached a list of the TBR schools and their grading system.**
- c. **Dr. Hardy requests that the Faculty Senate vote to determine whether or not to pursue an inquiry for such a change.**
- d. **If Faculty Senate votes to pursue a change, Dr. Hardy requests that Faculty Senate create the question for a Faculty Survey.**
 - i. **I recommend that the survey take place in spring 2016, so it can be announced at Faculty Institute**

IV. Amendment Vote (attachment)

- a. **Discussion about the lack of Faculty participation in the vote especially Faculty Senators.**
- b. **Although the amendments were approved by the Faculty, there is still a lengthy process before the amendments become effective.**

In short, Part Five of the 2014 Constitution states that the approved amendments must be sent to the President within three business days for affirmation. (I did send the Faculty approved amendments to President Glover on 11/17/15.)

The President has five business days to acknowledge receipt of the amendments.

The President has thirty calendar days to approve or deny the amendments (Article I, Section 4).

With over ninety percent approval on each of the amendments, I cannot imagine that President Glover will deny the amendments; nevertheless, her need to decide coincides with the end of the semester which means that, technically, President Glover does not have to render a decision until after spring 2016 Faculty Institute.

Upon affirmation, the approved amendments shall be transmitted to the TBR within three business days for their review (Article I, Section 5).

Part Five, Article II then indicates the process to adopt the amendments. This process can and, most likely, will not conclude until the end of spring 2016.

- c. **Anticipating that President Glover and TBR will approve the amendments, I recommend that we begin the spring 2016 Faculty Senate meeting with the idea that we are electing Senators for the Executive Committee for two year terms.**
 - i. **Any Faculty Senator who is currently in his or her first year is eligible for the Executive Committee positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.**
 - 1. **The Nomination and Appointment Committee chaired by Dr. Vaidas Lukosius is responsible to secure nominations for the positions and to ensure the willingness of individuals to serve in these roles.**
 - a. **It is possible that incoming Senators (who previously served on Faculty Senate) would be interested in one of these positions, so we may wish to wait until the February meeting to vote.**
 - b. **The Nomination and Appointment Committee may wish to encourage former Faculty Senators to run for the Faculty Senator positions in their colleges if they desire a position on the Executive Committee.**
- d. **Anticipating that President Glover and TBR will approve the amendments, Dr. Achintya Ray would have a two year term as the incoming President of Faculty Senate and that the person elected as Chair-elect would serve two years before becoming Chair of the Faculty Senate for two years.**

(Please note that I was never eligible to be Chair of Faculty Senate for a two year period because I came to the Senate on a three year basis. My third year ends in April 2016.)

- i. **This means that the Chair-elect must be chosen from the Faculty Senators who are elected in January and who will begin their service at the end of the April 2016 meeting.**
- ii. **The Nomination and Appointment Committee chaired by Dr. Vaidas Lukosius is responsible to secure nominations for the position and to ensure the willingness of those individuals to serve in the role of Chair-elect and, ultimately, Chair of the Faculty Senate.**
- iii. **The Nomination and Appointment Committee may wish to encourage former Faculty Senators to run for the Faculty Senator positions in their colleges if they desire the position of Chair-elect and, ultimately, Chair of the Faculty Senate.**

- e. **Anticipating that President Glover and TBR will approve the amendments, the Faculty Senate “At Large” position to represent Faculty Senate at the TBR sub-council meetings needs to be filled.**
 - i. **Any Faculty Senator who is currently in his or her first year is eligible for the Faculty Senate “At Large” position to represent Faculty Senate at the TBR sub-council meetings.**
 - 1. **The Nomination and Appointment Committee chaired by Dr. Vaidas Lukosius is responsible to secure nominations for the position and to ensure the willingness of individuals to serve in this role.**
 - a. **It is possible that incoming Senators (who previously served on Faculty Senate) would be interested in this position, so we may wish to wait until the February meeting to vote.**
 - b. **The Nomination and Appointment Committee may wish to encourage former Faculty Senators to run for the Faculty Senator positions in their colleges if they desire this position.**
- f. **New Faculty Senators are already serving two year with two year renewable terms. The amendment vote was to change the language in the Constitution.**

V. TUFSS (Tennessee University Faculty Senates) meeting at TSU in September 2016

- a. **October 21, 2015: Dr. Michael Catanzaro and Dr. Achintya Ray met with President Glover**
- b. **Discussed proposed plans for the TUFSS meeting**
 - i. **President Glover did not offer any objections to the three day meeting budget request**
 - ii. **President Glover did request Marie R. Sueing | Director of Multi-Cultural Community Relations to assist us with securing hotel rooms.**
 - iii. **Quiana Taylor was assigned to be our Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp (NCVC) contact**
 - iv. **Quiana Taylor secured pricing and availability from thirty-two downtown hotels and narrowed down the choices to six possibilities**
 - v. **The Executive Committee needs to choose one hotel.**

VI. Revised Chair Hiring Policy (attachment)

- a. **PLEASE READ THE DOCUMENT BEFORE THE MEETING**
- b. **Discussion by Faculty Senators**
- c. **I welcome any comments, suggestions, or recommendations for discussion; however, I am requesting that requests for changes be sent to me by e-mail immediately as the document was sent to the Administration for comments, suggestions, or recommendations to create a final revision before the end of the semester.**

VII. Faculty Senate Committee Report

- a. Academic Committee – Senator Thomas Broyles**
- b. Alumni Relations and Development Committee – Senator Robert Smith**
- c. Budget Committee – Senator Achintya Ray**
- d. Constitution and By-Laws Committee – Senator Michael Catanzaro**
- e. Curriculum Committee – Senator Diane Campbell**
- f. Executive Committee – Senator Michael Catanzaro**
- g. Faculty Grievance and Appeals Committee – Senator Beverly Brown**
- h. Faculty Benefits and Welfare Committee – Senator John Miglietta**
- i. Information Technology Committee – Senator John Kelly**
- j. Library Committee – Senator Joyce Radcliff**
- k. Nomination and Appointment Committee – Senator Vaidas Lukosius**
- l. Professional Development Committee – Senator Sean Daniels**
- m. Research Committee – Senator Sachin Shetty**
- n. Student Appeals Committee – Senator Pinky Noble-Britton**

VIII. Faculty Senate Webmaster

- a. The student who requested to be the webmaster is transferring to another school.**
- b. We are currently seeking another student to be the webmaster.**
- c. Dr. Michelle Pinkard (Technology Committee) has still agreed to be a mentor**
- d. The student can enroll in the LLP spring internship course to receive credit for service**

IX. Updates

- a. Proposal to Establish a Non-instructional Assignment Grants for tenured Faculty**
- b. Proposal for a Faculty Sick Bank**

- i. Please be aware that I did request a meeting with Dr. Hardy to discuss the status of the Faculty Senate initiatives. Dr. Hardy sent me a message that he would be out of the office until November 23, 2015.**

I sent a follow-up message to Dr. Hardy requesting an update of the initiatives. I did not receive a reply from Dr. Hardy.

X. Discussion Items

a. Academically Speaking

- i. TBR 1985 policy: Faculty Proficiency in Oral & Written English : 5:02:01:03**
- ii. Link: <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/faculty-proficiency-oral-written-english>**

b. Midterm Grade Report

- i. Responding to the vast numbers of Ds and Fs in the midterm grade reports**
- ii. Faculty Senate's response to this report?**

c. Disrespectful Students

- i. Faculty have reported instances of students being disrespectful to faculty members, usually because they are dissatisfied with a grade or grades.**
- ii. In one instance it came to the attention of a faculty member that the student complained bitterly about the class/professor in an open town meeting between administrators and students.**
- iii. The faculty member was not present to provide their side of the issue.**
- iv. Faculty are concerned about this lack of civility on the part of some students and the potential for it to escalate further.**
- v. This creates a hostile classroom environment for the faculty as well as other students.**
- vi. These concerns need to be addressed with the university and students need to be informed that this behavior is not acceptable or conducive to a learning environment.**
- vii. Students need to be made aware that there are established ways to deal with a grade that they think is unjustified.**
- viii. This needs to be discussed with students in general, emphasized in the student handbook, and in orientation classes.**

d. Traffic Concerns

- i. President Glover is aware of the traffic backup problem.**
- ii. There are plans to add a second booth to the main Alameda Street entrance**
- iii. there are plans to open the booth in the Performance Arts/Hale Hall area**
- iv. this will be part of the fence project that is 70% complete**
- v. There are no plans to designate booth entrances as specific for faculty or students or shuttles.**

e. Fall Break

- i. A concern has been raised that the students/Faculty need a fall break before Thanksgiving week.**
 - 1. Does Faculty Senate want to conduct a survey vote of the Faculty?**

XI. Comments / Concerns / Additional Issues

XII. Next meeting: January 21, 2016 at 2:40

XIII. Adjournment