

**Meeting of the Faculty Senate of the Tennessee State University**  
**February 8, 2018, Faculty Senate Room**

- I. The meeting opened at 2:46 PM. Dr. Achintya Ray, Chair, welcomed Senators. Dr. Mirani moved to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2018 meeting. Dr. Kilbourne seconded the movement. Minutes passed unanimously.
- II. President Ray expressed concerns about enrollment. He stated there is an emergency fund at \$39 million. Dr. Ray stated that he could not find this number online in the official document. Dr. Ray asked the Budget Committee to meet; they have not met in one year. Dr. Ray asked senators to forward salary email he send to the rest of their department faculty. It has all state employee faculty/staff salaries. This was found in response to questions about relative salaries for faculty at TSU versus other ex-TBR institutions.
- III. President Ray stated that we are now being asked to provide specific suggestions. Issues related to advisement were raised. Dr. Mirani was named chair of a committee to address this prior to Spring Break. Other committee members include: Kilbourne, Noble-Britton, Armwood, Kelly. Concerns raised include misadvisement and centralized v. department-based advising. Dr. Ray asked committee to get institutional research. Senator Kilbourne raised concern about the lack of feasibility of using AdvisorTrack. DegreeWorks has many errors that are not apparent to students. Senator Quick stated that faculty do not have access to DegreeWorks, but students do. Dr. Ray mentioned General Enrollment and THEC Performance Funding next. THEC looks at 30, 60, 90, and 120 hours; performance funding is based on this. Dr. Ray told committee that we need to know how much faulty advisement is impacting our progression and performance funding. How many hours of the 30, 60, 90, or 120 are not useful toward degree completion, a byproduct of misadvisement. Senator Kilbourne raised the concern that students may have unnecessary courses because they switched majors, not necessarily due to misadvisement.
- IV. President Ray asked Senator Campbell what the expected enrollment impact would be given the suspension of the Nursing program. Dr. Campbell stated that the suspension would not be removed until the curriculum is revised. The curriculum does not sufficiently prepare students for the nursing exam. Dr. Campbell qualified that she does not work in the BS program and doesn't have a full understanding. Dr. Campbell predicts about 80 students might be lost due to the suspension. Dr. Ray estimated the impact would be about 300-400 students FTE. Senator Kilbourne reported that the impact could be buffered if students are happy at TSU and are redirected to other majors and 1-year accelerated nursing programs.
- V. Dr. Ray asked for a timeline on the product of the advising committee. Dr. Mirani reported that the committee's first meeting is tomorrow. She would give an update on Monday. Dr. Mirani reported she would contact Dr. Burch-Sims today for institutional data. Senator

Burks raised concern about having students with high numbers of credit hours being advised to switch to Interdisciplinary Studies major.

- VI. Senator Akbar asked what the connection is between advisement and enrollment. President Ray responded that we all agree there are problems with our enrollment management. It is also important that we get the word out that students are graduating on time. Poor graduation rates lowers our reputation and that impacts enrollment. Senator Akbar responded that we do not have enough outreach or advertisements, and we do not have a comfortable and effective admissions office.
- VII. President Ray expressed concern about enrollment. 7201 is low. Dr. Ray asked for actions. He started with the Graduate School. Senator Mirani said the Graduate School does not have an online application system. Senator Campbell reported that Nursing has switched to an outside system (CAS). Senator Burks raised concerns that students have insufficient funds. He asked if we could lower tuition or find funds. Who can we recruit who has the funds to persist. President Ray shifted the focus back to the Graduate School. President Ray started with Graduate Council which does not report to the Faculty Senate, this is a particular concern regarding curriculum approvals. Senator Campbell stated that she had spoken with the chair of the Graduate Council curriculum committee. President Ray stated that we are a Faculty Senate for all faculty and that graduate curriculum revisions should be overseen by the Faculty Senate. President Ray opened the floor.
- VIII. Senator de Casal stated that she has been a graduate faculty for 33 years. She stated that the Graduate Dean is the biggest problem. He has changed the format and wording of the dissertation. She reported that this was not taken to the curriculum committee. President Ray asked for clarification. Senator de Casal stated that when the Graduate School Dean came, he changed the format for the dissertation. Senator de Casal said it is not in compliance with APA. Senator de Casal then reported that the approval process for dissertations includes a signing by the department chair and the college dean prior to going to the Graduate School. Senator de Casal reported that her program's biggest problem is that classes are not being offered.
- IX. Senator Akbar brought the discussion back to the lack of an automated admissions system for the Graduate School. Items are chronically lost. Personnel are not happy to see students. Senator Quick stated that the system is antiquated. Dr. Zhou stated that international students are required by TSU, not state, to have transcripts validated (WES), which is time consuming and expensive. Notarized transcripts would increase applicants. President Ray asked who decides the admissions process. Senator Quick responded that every department handles it differently. Senator Zhou raised another concern about the graduate school admissions process. For international students, they have a transcript but cannot have a diploma by May, which is a firm deadline. Because the application is incomplete, it is not

reviewed by the department. President Ray asked if I24 conditional acceptance can be given. Senator Zhou responded yes.

- X. President Ray stated he wants to formalize the problem. If solving problems could double enrollment in a year, that would be a significant gain. Senator Triplett ask about the impact on the loss of our Saudi students on our enrollment. Senator Quick stated it is hard to fund international students because funding agencies will not support them. Therefore, we should consider who we need to be recruiting for the Graduate School. President Ray asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to pull together these issues and prepare a white paper to document our concerns and recommendations: Senator Zhou, Ali, Counts, Akbar, Kamssu, Boadi, Baker, Ray. Committee will meet Monday 2pm.
- XI. President Ray switched to salary data. A concern is that the university is spending money on things that are not productive. What kind of analysis do we want to Budget Committee to perform? President Ray tabled this for next time. Senator raised concern about delays in the faculty search process.
- XII. President Ray adjourned the meeting at 4:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiesa Kelly, Secretary

In attendance:

Akbar, M.

Boadi, W.

Bryan, K.

Burks, G.

Campbell, D.

de Casal, C.

Fleming, R.

Kelly, K.

Kilbourne, B.

Kamssu, A.

Mirani, M.

Pleban, F.

Taheri, Ali

Ray, A.

Van Dyke, J.

Triplett, K.

Quick, Q. (sub for Biology)

Williams, L.

Yao, F.  
Zhou, S.