

## **Faculty Senate Business Meeting**

### **April 2, 2018**

Members present: Douglas Airhart, Ismet Anitsal, S.K. Ballal, Deborah Ballou, Jason Beach, Tammy Boles, Debra Bryant, Andrew Callender, Corinne Darvennes, Ahmed ElSawy, Steven Frye, Stuart Gaetjens, Mark Groundland, David Hajdik, Jeremy Hansen, Ann Hellman, Paula Hinton, Shelia Hurley, Steve Idem, Barbara Jared, Christy Killman, David Larimore, Regina Lee, Jane Liu, Lori Maxwell, Tony Michael, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Jeff Roberts, LeeAnn Shipley, Cara Sisk, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Holly Stretz and Jeremy Wendt

Members absent: Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Ward Doubet, Billye Foster, Melissa Geist, Christine Miller, Holly Mills, and Richard Rand

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM by Senate President Killman.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Senator Darvennes made a MOTION to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Senator Ballou seconded. The agenda was APPROVED.

#### **Approval of Minutes & Notes**

Senator Hinton made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 12, 2018 and the notes of March 19, 2018. Senator Stretz seconded. The motion was APPROVED.

#### **New Business**

##### ***a. Pre-Litigation Hold***

Ms. Kae Carpenter advised Senators on the pre-litigation hold, and asked for any questions.

##### ***b. Faculty Senate Website Comments***

A copy of the comments posted since mid-January on the Faculty Senate website was shared with Senators. A question arose if the calendar committee still exists, and if any faculty member is on it. Some heard that VP Johnson will be told to do something about the calendar committee.

There was some concern over these comments not being dealt with. Senate President Killman said she takes care of many of them with a phone call, or relaying them to appropriate parties. Some matters are addressed in Senate meetings and then recorded in the minutes which are posted on the website for everyone to see. There have been about 68 comments since September 2016 when this was made available.

##### ***c. Faculty Senate Procedures Report***

The Faculty Senate Procedures Subcommittee drafted Senate procedures after the officer duties were approved. Faculty Senate is not governed by sunshine laws, and is allowed to have closed meetings. This will be discussed in the future, and maybe some restrictions proposed.

Senators discussed if emeriti faculty are considered current faculty. Senators plan to revisit this next year, as well as our purpose. Lecturers and instructors need to also be considered. Next, these procedures need to be approved by the University Assembly. Senator Wendt made a MOTION to approve these procedures. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. The motion was APPROVED.

***d. Nominating Subcommittee Report***

Senator ElSawy said the Nominating Subcommittee met several times. They want to have a rotation of officers between the colleges. The proposed slate for next year's officers includes Senator Smith-Andrews for President-Elect, and Senator Smith for President. The position of Secretary is still open. There were no nominations from the floor. Senator Airhart made a MOTION to elect Senators Smith-Andrews and Smith by acclamation. Senator Stretz seconded. The motion was APPROVED.

At a final Senate business meeting in April, we will vote on a secretary.

***e. Dates to Remember***

Senate President Killman reminded Senators of upcoming meetings and events.

- April 4           Administrative Council meeting
- April 6-8        TUFS meeting on this campus.  
Everyone is invited to attend Saturday's meetings, but let Senate President Killman know ahead of time so there will be enough seating and food.
- April 11         Academic Council meeting
- April 16         Faculty Senate meeting with the President
- April 18         Welcome reception for VP Brandon Johnson
- April 18         University Assembly meeting
- April 25         University Faculty meeting – Vote for members-at-large on Councils
- April 26         Welcome reception for Provost Bruce

***f. Final Senate Business Meeting***

Senate President Killman asked Senators about having a short, final business meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to wrap up the year. In a vote, this was approved with one dissention.

***g. Questions for meeting with President***

One Senator is interested in discussing the matter with Kim Godwin (see December 4, 2017 notes).

**Old Business**

***a. Communication Subcommittee Report***

The Communications Subcommittee drafted a motion to improve communications through a variety of tools. The MOTION reads as follows:

Regarding communication with faculty colleagues, we (Senators) will:

1. Create a Faculty Senate listserv that Tennessee Tech University faculty can opt to join. Items such as Senate meeting agendas, minutes, and resolutions will be shared via the listserv;

2. Continue to post Senate meeting agendas, minutes, resolutions, and other relevant items on the Senate web page;
3. Incorporate Faculty Senate reports into College or Department Faculty meetings. College Senators are responsible for summarizing Senate business and discussions with the University President in these meetings;
4. Appoint a Faculty Senate Communications Director to assist with Senate communications efforts, such as the Senate web site, listserv, and any additional Senate communication initiatives.

Senator Ballou made a MOTION that the Faculty Senate implement these communication efforts. It was also suggested to have a communications director as an officer of the Senate. Senator Smith-Andrews made friendly amendment to point 4 above (as currently written above). Senator Ballou accepted the friendly amendment. This communications director could even be the contact person for the comments submitted on our website, and respond to them. The motion was APPROVED.

***b. Outsourcing***

Senate President Killman asked if there was desire for a resolution regarding outsourcing now that we know JLL is out, and the SSC contract will be extended for one more year. Mark Greenwood would be the one to talk to about our cost savings. A RFP will go out next year. Some Senators said the problem is that there is no quality assurance in some buildings now. Most folks are pleased with maintenance. The fringe benefits is worth more than a custodian's salary, but is expensive to Tech if custodial services are handled in-house. What would we save by in-sourcing custodial services?

Senators agreed to continue discussion of this topic at a later date. It was decided that a resolution is not in order today, but we need to find out what data is necessary to gather and then revisit this topic early in the fall semester.

**Other Such Matters**

Senator Larimore said a budget report should be part of every business meeting, even though they don't meet very often. The Budget Advisory Committee met in March, which was the first time since last October.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Lee,  
Faculty Senate Secretary

Approved: April 23, 2018