

January 30, 2023
Faculty Senate Business Meeting

Via TEAMS

In attendance: Secretary Killman, Past-President Luna, President-Elect Allen, Senators SSmith, Null, Duncan, Rajabali, Manginelli, Comer, Meadows, Reames, Isbell, Turner, Hutson, Upole, Park, Smith-Andrews, Lee, Mullen, Spears, Hajdik, Winkle, Mills, Hermann-Turner, Hasan, Craven, Alley, Brachey, TSmith, Liu, Crockett, Sisk, Witcher, Pickering, O'Connor, Loftis, Howard, Langford, Shipley, Swartling, Allcott, Ojo, Adams, Weathers

Guests: Holly Anthony, Tom Timmerman, Jeremy Blair, Carolyn Goodin

Absent: President Maxwell, Senators Fennewald, Rand, Canfield, Frye, Fornehed, Burch, Ding

Call to Order: 3:36pm

President-Elect Allen called the meeting to order at 3:36pm due to President Maxwell's absence. There was a motion to approve the agenda by Senator Smith-Andrews, seconded by Senator Weathers, call for vote and motion passed. Guest speakers for the days meeting were given time to introduce themselves and their role related to the Tech Tomorrow Strategic Plan. Dr. Lenly Weathers is the faculty chair of the working group for strategic goal one – Education for Life. Dr. Holly Anthony is the faculty chair of the working group for strategic goal two – Innovation in All We Do. Dr. Tom Timmerman is the faculty chair of the working group for strategic goal three – Exceptional Stewardship and Dr. Jeremy Blair is the faculty chair of the working group for strategic goal four – Engagement for Impact.

1. Education for life. – Leader: Dr. Weathers. TTU provides education that unleashes the potential and passion within our students and prepares them for successful careers and cultural enriched lives. Tech also provides educational opportunities, programs credentials and degrees to fuel a lifelong learning necessary for enduring achievement.
2. Innovation in all we do. – Leader Dr. Anthony. TTU innovates in all we do. Embracing and employing our technological foundation and in our education. Research, service and stewardship.
3. Exceptional Stewardship. – Leader: Dr. Tom. Optimizing resources and continuously improving effectiveness, efficiency and return on investments for students.
4. Engagement for Impact. – Leader: Dr. Blair. Fostering partnerships with government, business, and non-profit organizations to advance economic and work force development. Create and insemenate knowledge, serve the public good, and generate cultural impacts.
- 5.

Highlights:

How to implement the goals?

At the start of the school year, they met with all the colleges they could, to solicit advice on how to implement the strategic plan.

Education for Life: 3 priority actions- Priority B:

Tech will create a Tennessee Tech unique general education curriculum to provide the foundation for technologically in depth analytically capable career ready graduates.

2 types of learning communities:

1. Curricular learning communities.
2. Residential Learning communities

It was stated that this group is looking for advice, ideas and ways to implement something permanent. Learning communities promote community with students and serve to increase student engagement and learning as well as increase retention.

General Education Question:

Was it mentioned that faculty members working on a Tech unique general education? What is *Tech unique* Gen Ed?

Answer:

That is the question. We are trying to define that. What are the possibilities for gen ed? Nothing has been done yet. Committees have been formed to discuss this. We already have Tech unique general education.

It is mentioned that some other schools have more general education classes to offer. Members would like to be updated on the Gen Ed conversation.

It would be helpful for the committee to hear suggestions from faculty.

Comment:

It was suggested that Linda Null be on the committee. Linda has the most experience on this subject.

Who is being solicited for information on Gen Edu? Faculty needs to have a say in this conversation.

Question:

Are there specific guidelines on how many hours/parameters that have been external set for gen ed that will inform how we will proceed?

Answer:

It's under review. 42 hours now. Some universities have 39. It's something to consider. "Buckets" are defined differently. Such as Fine Arts. Are the ones we have working for us?

Question:

There is already Gen Ed committee. Is this in their wheelhouse?

Answer:

Unknown at this time. Best directed to the Provost. Different ways the process could go. It is important to maintain institutional integrity in this process.

Question:

It is not clear if this is up to the current committee or is there need for expansion?

Answer:

Unknown. They are important players.

Comment:

It would be unfortunate if current members responsibilities would be taken out of their hands.

Response:

Policy states that any committee that falls within their jurisdiction must be involved. If there are major changes in Gen Ed, they have to be involved.

Comment:

The outcome of this committee's work will be long term. The committee will provide choices for all the faculty to review. The committee would lay the ground work for potential possibilities. There will be multiply options to be considered to go on for further review.

Comment:

Again, please keep us informed. Rumors are going around and we don't know what is going on. There is someone from every college on the committee. Trying to work within SACSCOC guidelines. We don't have to have 41 hours or some of the categories. But we are required to have certain categories.

Comment:

Joint degree programs must share Gen Ed approvals. We do a lot of substitutions because others schools have a lot of classes we don't offer. Required to make exceptions. Those of us involved in those programs should be involved in this process.

Dr. Blair:

In charge of Engagement, looking into 3 topics.

Art, culture, and innovation- like to form a committee to help with visibility of art and culture that students and/or alumni are involved with or created.

Global experience- more engagement through students and faculty through a hub for global experience.

Academic community engagement and development- developing ideas on how to connect to k-12 and or adult learners to connect with TTU.

Dr. Weathers:

Innovation in all we do- looking for committees for the following:

TTU considering a one-to-one technology.

Tech infusion: What technologies are being infused by faculty in each type of course.

Student opportunities to engage in technology in curricular and extracurricular.

Dr. Timmerman:

Exceptional Stewardship-

Suggests committee designed to address the HR culture.

Enrollment retentions. Retaining and attracting more students.

Among the four guests there are 10 initiatives. Committees are being formed.

Question:

What can we do to make sure you are well informed and as involved as you want to be?

How will you let us know that the committees are being formed?

Answer:

Different committees are happening in different ways. Relying on guidance for appropriate faculty. Lists will be made then given to the president and provost to decide on those committees. Other committees have been done through deans, chairs, various leaders. We are a recommending body but we are not inviting those members.

Comment:

If we are not directly involved, a monthly informative email on the committees would be appreciated.

Response:

If you have not read the strategic plan, go to tntech.edu/techtomorrow
If you have suggestions, please let us know.

Emails and phone numbers will be shared so everyone can continue discussion on this topic.

New Item:

Approval of minutes from the fall.

Secretary Killman sent 6 sets of minutes and notes. Still need to finish Nov notes.

Motion to approve minutes and notes by Killman. Second by Smith-Andrews.

There was a question about the minutes from the September 12 meeting. They were removed from the motion, which was modified to start with Sept 19 notes.

Discussion ended, call for vote, motion carried. Minutes approved.

New Item: Senate Priority Spring 2023 – Electing Representative to the Board of Trustees

There was discussion about applications for the representative position and if the faculty rep has to be on faculty senate. The deadline for application is February 15. Applicants will have a chance to speak to Faculty Senate at the Feb 27 business meeting and then a vote will ensure.

In March, Vice President Braswell will be our guest speaker.

Breakfast with the Trustees in March before the Board Meeting. Potential topics of discussion:
Higher floor for staff raises.
Policy 206 is discussed and will be seen again.

If anyone has any specific suggestions on how to handle A.I. and chat GTB, send them to Dr. Russell.

Question:

Has anyone noticed how terrible the campus looks?

Answer:

Bring this topic to the President.

Comment:

In the past faculty senate asked to include Bereavement Policy to include domestic partner. Senate should see that it is reconsidered.

Research what other universities are doing.

Ten years ago, the senate passed for benefits to include domestic partners. This was sent to the President. Not much response.

Suggestion:

Bring this topic to the Board of Trustees.

Question:

Did the drag show at the Backdoor Playhouse go without incident this weekend?

Answer:

Pictures on Facebook. Looked like everything was good.

There are new guidelines for any kind of performance that come for the committee that was appointed. Those guidelines were followed when the proposal was submitted. It may impact other performances if children attend. New guidelines may require some events to be 18+

Question:

How do we address the safety in all the construction zones happening on campus?

Answer:

Bring this topic to the President. Construction companies have a number that we can report safety problems. Remind students to respect the safety tape.

Question:

Is there is Safety Committee? Someone dedicated to the safety on campus?

Answer:

That is a question for the President.

Statement:

Email Senator Alcott with any information for him to compile evidence for bereavement policy.

Motion to adjourn @ 5:07pm by Senator Mills.

Respectfully submitted by Christy Killman