

Tennessee Tech Faculty Senate

March 22, 2021 @ 3:35 P.M.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve of Minutes and Notes
4. BOT Faculty Representative Presentations and Vote (Pardue)
5. Nominating Committee for President Elect of Faculty Senate (Luna)
6. Faculty Senate President Update
7. ~~Invitation to Dr. Katie Williams, Dean of Students, on Shared Governance and student organizations~~
8. Old Business
9. Other Such Matters

Suggestion box questions,

question - I am writing to express a concern about the non-instructional research grant. The grant asks for a budget as part of the proposal, but there is no information provided about the available funding. Thus, applicants do not know what they can ask for (amount and types of spending).

Some applicants know (through the grapevine) that they can ask for up to \$4k. Others are left in the dark and do not even ask for money, although the budget is part of the application. This is a nebulous way of dealing with an internal grant. The chair of the committee informs applicants that the committee itself only selects the winners. The funding is then left to the dean's office.

Again, this is not a transparent process at all - does the committee show the respective deans who they have selected? Does the dean look at the selected faculty member and then decides whether the candidate's budgeting fits into the dean's budget?

If an internal grant program asks for a budget, the application package should contain information about the make up of the budget. The amount of available funding should also be clearly stated and should be known to all applicants.

On a different and final note, please push for more of these NIFA assignments. Tech is pushing for more research, but there are only two of these available (instead of the previous four). This is as close as Tech comes to offering faculty a sabbatical.

question - I would like to know why the winners of the NIFA *(non-instructional grant assignments) are not announced in Tech times, as indicated in the procedures of this committee. They were supposed to be announced on 2/24. Secondly, why hasn't faculty, who has been on this committee since 2014 been rotated off? There are at least three members who have been on this committee for seven years. It seems as though they should be replaced by other faculty from time to time. Their service is scheduled to be for three years and can be extended at the president's discretion - but how many times? There should also be a list of previous winners provided. Why is it a secret who is being selected? Winners are not announced anywhere. In Arts and Sciences, they are also not announced during the meeting at the beginning of the academic year. Why? It would also be good if more of those grants were available (not just two). Finally, some applicants know that they can ask for travel money etc. while others are not aware of that Those monies are made available through the Dean's offices. Why is this not official knowledge. The process seems to lack transparency.

Good afternoon, Holly.

I would like to suggest that faculty senate discuss the recent letter to university presidents from state legislators calling on universities to enact policies prohibiting athletes from kneeling during the anthem. Yes, athletes do represent the university when they put on uniforms, but no, they do not give up their rights because of the uniform. I hope our university president will take a strong stance against this attempt to silence free speech, and I also want the faculty senate to consider doing the same.

Thanks,

Janet Kesterson Isbell, PhD

Associate Professor, [College of Education](#)

Executive Director, [Jere Whitson CDF Freedom School](#)

Associate Editor, [Journal of Multicultural Affairs](#)

Tennessee Tech University

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Happy Monday!

One of my faculty members, Dr. Gunter, requested I forward a question to Faculty Senate, but not for today's Agenda, or even the next meeting, because I know we have busy agendas. However, he asked if any other faculty have experienced problems with the new Faculty IDs?

The ID only lists the name of employee with their picture, and has "Faculty/Staff" with the TTU symbol.

It does ***not***:

- say "Tennessee Tech University;"
- distinguish whether we are faculty or staff;
- list a date of employment.

Dr. Gunter has already been denied the ability to register for a conference reduced rate with his ID because there was no way to prove his faculty status.

Best,
Lori