

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

September 9, 2019

Members Present:

Douglas, Airhart, Michael Best, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Andrew Callender, Ahmed Elsayy, Mary Lou Fornehed, Stuart Gaetjens, Mark Groundland, David Hajdik, Barbara Jared, Brian Jones, Matt Langford, Susan Laningham, David Larimore, Lori Maxwell, Allan Mills, Holly Mills, Lachelle Norris, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Anthony Paradis, Sally Pardue, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, Lee Ann Shipley, Troy Smith, Sandra Smith-Andrews, Barry Stein, Holly Stretz, Lenly Weathers, Zac Wilcox, Kim Winkle, Jeannette Wolak

Members Absent:

Jeremy Blair, Troy Brachey, Wei Tsun Chang, Yun Ding, Steven Frye, Shelia Hurley, Christy Killman, Mary Matthews, Mark Melichar, Christine Miller, Ben Mohr, Craig Zamer

1. Call to Order

Senate President Smith-Andrews called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Senator Larimore made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Senator Airhart seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with the following additions and changes:

8. B. E-mail purge (Stretz)

10. B. New tenure cover sheet discussion (Null)

12. Switch the order for A. TimeClock+ (Wolak) and C. Building Cleanliness (Wolak)

3. Approval of Minutes and Notes

Senator Stretz made a motion to approve the minutes from the Senate business meeting on April 22. Senator Larimore seconded. After some discussion on content, the minutes were approved.

4. Replacement Senate Members

Dr. Rao resigned his senate seat and Dr. King left the university. President Smith-Andrews is in consultation with the Deans of the respective colleges for recommendations on filling these seats. Replacements will fill the seat for the remainder of this year; departments will elect replacements in the spring to complete the terms and keep the election cycle on-track.

5. Senate Schedule

The last scheduled Senate meeting is during finals. It was an extra meeting designed to wrap up any unfinished business for the year. The hope is that it will not be necessary.

6. Opening Remarks/Updates

Senate President Smith-Andrews outlined her intentions in leading the Faculty Senate this year. Her goal is to keep everyone well-informed and end the meetings at a reasonable time.

A. The biggest questions received thus far involve parking, especially guest parking on campus. Senate President Smith-Andrews learned there will be no more regularly-held or open-ended guest parking passes for departments.

B. Marc Burnett will be retiring in December, but it is anticipated that his new position as Chief Diversity Officer will be continued and a replacement hired.

C. Enrollment is slightly down (0.3%). FTE is higher than anticipated.

D. A search is underway for the Vice President of Research; Dr. Otuonye remains the interim VP.

E. The university's strategic plan is shifting to the implementation phase.

F. University administrators are taking a deeper look at student demographics in order to be more strategic in marketing in certain areas.

G. Dr. Otuonye reported that grant production reached an all-time high.

H. Senate President Smith-Andrews' goals for senate include publicizing the faces of the senators in order to enhance recruitment, increase morale, and be a voice for the faculty. She hopes to have shorter meetings that shift discussions from identifying problems to proposing solutions.

I. The upcoming Board of Trustees meeting (September 24, 2019) and TUFS meeting (October 4-6, 2019, UT Martin) were announced.

7. University Budget Advisory Committee

Senator Null nominated Jeff Roberts and David Larimore to continue their service on the Budget Advisory committee, and the motion was seconded. Senator Null made a motion to cease further nominations and approve Senators Roberts and Larimore by acclamation. The motion carried.

8. Reports

Concerns continue regarding retiring and emeriti faculty retaining email, and the lack of communication of the procedures for retaining their accounts. Senators would like to see procedures and communication outlined in the policy. Senator Roberts will work on getting Policy 219 changed.

9. Joint Committee to Review Administrative Council, Academic Council, and Senate Procedures

Senators Airhart, Callender, Hinton, Null, O'Connor, and Wolak will work to update procedures for these three bodies for agreement and consistency.

10a. Board Changes to Policy 207

In cases where tenured faculty have triggered a post-tenure review, concerns were raised the President could ultimately decide the outcome even if it goes against the recommendations of the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees. Some senators would like to see a procedural provision to call for a no-confidence vote in those instances. Other concerns were raised about ad hoc policy changes by the Board of Trustees, and whether there should be an allowance for that in the Policy on Policies. Senator and Faculty Board Representative Pardue will get on the next board meeting agenda to discuss this matter.

10b. New Tenure Data Sheet (Policy 205)

Senator Null presented the current tenure data sheet. Senators were concerned the data sheet is not a good fit for all departments and disciplines. Suggestions were made for ways to make the sheet more adaptable and specific, though it was shared that the Provost wants a standardized sheet for all faculty. The Provost is not opposed to a longer data sheet if it covers more areas appropriate to more faculty, but the current version is up for a vote in Academic Council this week. Most senators believe the data sheet is not ready to be rolled out, but a few were in favor of using it and seeing how it works this year.

11. Intellectual Property Policy 732

Senator Hajdik distributed a document showing item 5 from his most recent contract. Concerns were raised about the types of intellectual property the faculty would retain, how it is defined and determined, and whether that is accurately reflected in Policy 732. Some faculty worry that the policy may be too open to interpretation. President Smith-Andrews will contact Sharon Holderman and get an update from the IPAC Committee regarding the status of Policy 732.

12. Quick Survey

- a. Building Cleanliness: Senator Wolak moved that the Faculty Senate create an ad hoc committee to investigate the level of cleaning services provide to Tennessee Tech and make recommendations regarding cleaning services to the Tennessee Tech administration and Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded. The committee will investigate two items: 1. are we receiving the level of service we are currently paying for from this vendor, and 2. if we are receiving the services, are they sufficient? Senators Smith, Brown, Callender, and Wolak will serve on this committee.
- b. CPOS: Are there issues with CPOS? Currently, there is no delineation for Honors on any program. It was noted the Registrar should be a part of DegreeWorks.
- c. TimeClock+: Senators discussed issues and problems with the implementation of TimeClock+. It was expressed that because it is new, there will be bugs and issues, and that the topic could be revisited in three months.

13. Senate Retreat

Most senators would be in favor of a retreat off-campus in October or November. President Smith-Andrews will investigate options and report back at a later time.

14. Old Business

None

15. Other Such Matters

- a. The class schedule with class times starting on the hour and half-hour will begin next year, and the following year the number of weeks in the semester will change.
- b. Senators reviewing policy worry that outside influence on policies may leave them insufficient.
- c. What level of information will we be able to learn about litigation involving the university? President Smith-Andrews will ask Kae Carpenter what Faculty Senate can expect to know.
- d. It was suggested Faculty Senate push for a 50/50 split between Academics and Administration in the budget and push for planning and managing to stay ahead of the budget issues from recent years.
- e. Are all overloads set at a certain number? One senator remarked it seemed inequitable. President Smith-Andrews will inquire about overload caps and whether the Provost is seeking standardization across departments.
- f. Faculty raises in January? Did Administration receive a raise? President Smith-Andrews will ask and report back.

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Supporting documents:

- Faculty Contract Item
- Faculty Tenure Cover Sheet Draft

Approved: 11/04/2019