



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	11/22/2021	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Zoom
Next Meeting:	01/24/2022	Scribe:			Ashley Sergiadis
Present:	Blackhart, Ginni; Blackwell, Roger; Burns, Bracken; Byington, Randy; Cherry, Donna; De Oliveira Fiuza, Felipe; Digavalli, Siva; Ellis, Jon; Epps, Susan; Fisher, Stacey; Foley, Virginia; Frye, Stephanie; Funk, Bobby; Garris, Bill; Gentry, Retha; Gomez Sobrino, Isabel; Gray, Jeffrey; Hawthorne, Sean; Hemphill, Bill; Hemphill, Jean; Hendrix, Stephen; Kim, Sookhyun; Kruppa, Michael; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; Mamudu, Hadii; McGarry, Theresa; Nivens, Ryan; Park, Esther; Schroder, Laurie; Sergiadis, Ashley; Stevens, Alan; Tai, Chih-Che; Thigpen, Jim; Trogen, Paul; Uddin, Mohammad; Walden, Rachel; Waters, Susan; Weyant, Emily; Youngberg, George;				
Absent:	Beatty, Kate; Bray, Sheree; Chakraborty, Kanishka; Daniels, Jean; Dowling-McClay, Karilynn; Ecay, Thomas; Elangovan, Saravanan; Evanshen, Pam; Hauldren, Kacie; Herrmann, Andrew; Hounshell, Jonathan; Johnson, Michelle; Landis, Ryan; Mitchell, Holly; O'Neil, Kason; Ramsey, Priscilla; Thompson, Beth Ann; Zahner, Matt				

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order

1. Celebrations

2. Introductions of Guests

3. Announcements

4. Guest Speaker

5. Approval of Minutes

6. Action Items

7. Information Items

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Comments from Guests

11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators

11. Adjourn

DISCUSSIONS

1. Celebrations

1.1 **Sergiadis** announced that her and her husband received third place and won a chiminea at the Tri-Liquor's drunken pumpkin contest.

1.2 **Fisher** announced that she closed on a house that she bought for her mom.

1.3 **Epps** celebrated the ETSU football team for winning the outright Southern Conference championship. They are playing again on December 4th at 2:00 pm.

2. Introductions of Guests

2.1 Amy Johnson, Associate Provost for Faculty and Director, Center for Teaching Excellence



DISCUSSIONS

2.2 Joy Fulkerson, Division of Student Life and Enrollment, Staff Senate President

3. Announcements
None.

4. Guest Speaker – Mr. Jeremy Ross, Chief Operations Officer

4.1 Ross presented on current and future construction projects.

- ETSU submits projects to THEC as does the UT system, TBR system, TCAT, community colleges, and LGIs. THEC may receive 30 projects in the state and prioritize 10. The THEC list will be considered when determining the governor’s budget later this year.
 - THEC recommended Brown Hall renovation (\$90 million) as number 1. Phase 1 will cost \$45-50 million to renovate the north wing of the building.
 - The Health Sciences Building was number 3 on the list. It is ~\$50 million and will be located in Innovation Park behind Fresh Market.
 - The Academic Building was also in the top 10. ETSU received planning money but not construction money in the last budget. Due to an increase in construction costs, the budget is \$62.5 million (up \$10 million).
- As it relates to capital, there is a lot of money. The state of Tennessee tax receipts are up. They’ve made more money in COVID than pre-COVID. There is also federal money. However, the cost of construction is going up and construction is taking longer.
- Other projects include Lamb Hall and housing renovations (\$30 to 50 million).
- We have a master plan coming up, which we have to do about every 10 years. Projects that we submit must be in our master plan, so it is important to accomplish.

4.2 Ross answered questions from Senators.

Byington: What is the update of University Commons, Phase II?

Ross: We are in the process of hiring design. We have to select designers, which goes through the state process. I hope to start that process during the first of the year and have a design in place to begin work next summer. I do not know what would be in the University Commons. I would like to include a lot of people’s input. The goal in the master plan is to get to the arch at the football stadium. There will be an oval or quad behind Lamb Hall and Hutchinson to Ross Drive to the thoroughfare all the way to the archway. I do not know if the funds will take us that far. The project may require an additional phase.

Foley: Where is Campus Center in the planning?

Ross: The Campus Center would be a part of the Academic Building project. We just hired architects. The demolition of Campus Center building is estimated to be May 15th to August 7th 2023. The construction would be completed in 2024. Lamb Hall is scheduled to be completed in December 2022. Burlson and Gilbreath renovations would be November 2024 to July 2026.

Walden: How are problems with existing buildings handled? For example, humidifying units in our building’s HVAC supposedly have not worked for years.

Ross: We have hundreds of buildings and acres. At any moment in time, some systems (HVAC, water, electrical, roofing) work better than others do. We submit a five-year plan to the state. The money we receive is formula based around square footage. It is never enough money. This year we have \$13 million for maintenance. We will be using some of those funds to re-roof Wilson Wallace. We also handle these problems through capital maintenance projects, bonded projects, or if they are small enough local funds. Bonded projects use money that we borrow that we have to return. We are using bonded projects to handle some of the humidity problems in housing.



DISCUSSIONS

5. Approval of Minutes

Hendrix questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 11/08/2021 meeting. **Sergiadis** stated that Senator Epps and McGarry had minor corrections to the minutes.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

6. Action Items

None.

7. Information Items

7.1 Information Item – Bylaws Revisions – Dr. Epps

The by-law revisions are to adjust how the representation of new units are determined. Under our current by-laws, Graduate and Continuing Studies would be entitled to 3 faculty members even though they do not have many faculty. This would be a disproportionate representation. The revision also allows for the representation of the library to be the same as all other academic units. Right now, they are only allowed 1 representative no matter the size of their faculty. It will be an action item in our January meeting.

7.2 Request for Feedback on New Senator Training – Dr. Frye

The Executive Committee is organizing an additional training session that covers the basic rules and protocols of the Senate for new Senators or returning Senators who would like a refresher. This training session would most likely occur the same day as the Faculty Senate retreat. New Senators already received an email asking for their thoughts. If you have any feedback, contact Senator Frye.

7.3 Request from Provost Concerning Dean Search – Mr. Hendrix

Provost McCorkle requested Faculty Senate to recommend 4 faculty to serve on the CAS search and 4 faculty to serve on the CBAT search. Please complete the form to recommend yourself or another faculty from CAS or CBAT to serve on the search committee. Executive Committee will review this list next Monday and make recommendations to Provost McCorkle. Senator Hendrix will email the form after the meeting today via email per Senator Fiuza's request.

Request for names for Dean Searches: <https://forms.office.com/r/Q2QM3EinQQ>

7.4 Discussion Concerning Ombudsperson – Mr. Hendrix

MOPs (Meeting of the Presidents of the Senates) recently discussed having ombudsperson(s) for faculty. Provost McCorkle is also interested in having an ombudsperson. Senator Byington will be leading a small working group to create a proposal requesting an ombudsperson from Provost McCorkle. The working group needs 2 to 3 more members. Meetings will begin after Winter Break. Faculty Senate will need to review the proposal in March in order to send it to Provost McCorkle by the end of the spring semester. Senators McGarry and Digavalli volunteered.

Byington provided some context on this issue. An ombudsman is a way to resolve issues between individuals across campus without going through the formal filing of complaints, similar to a mediator. It does not take the place of the Concerns and Grievance Committee. The hope is that the ombudsperson would be able to resolve conflicts before they escalated to formal complaints. An ombudsperson position has been a long-standing goal of the Faculty Senate. In 2011, Faculty Senate presented a proposal to Dr. Stanton in which an existing faculty member would serve and have their time bought out. In 2016, Faculty Senate proposed a full time



DISCUSSIONS

ombudsman that was accepted pending budget. The working group can review these two models, decide what might be most appropriate, and make any needed changes. Doug Burgess will also be involved since he worked on the two previous proposals. **Hemphill (B.)** suggested getting Keith Johnson involved because he sometimes acts as an ombudsperson by default.

7.5 Handbook Committee Update – Dr. Epps

No update.

7.6 Board of Trustees Report – Dr. Foley

The Board of Trustees met last Friday and approved several items. First, they approved a letter of notice for Master of Arts and Music. Second, they approved the October budget revisions along with some changes in the debt service on the Culp. Third, they approved assignments to standing committees of the Board. Charles Allen was named a trustee by the governor in late September. He has been assigned to the Academics, Research, and Student Success Committee and Finance and Operations committee. The student trustee, Kara Gilliam, asked to be moved to the Academics, Research, and Student Success Committee. However, the Board decided that the student trustee should be on the Finance and Operations Committee to give input on tuition and related costs. The student trustee is now on both committees. Fourth, the Board approved a library fines rule (not policy). Students, faculty, and others who subscribe to library access will have no fines for the first seven days an item is overdue. After seven days, it will be considered lost and the cost of replacing the item will be what is assessed. A hold will be placed on transcripts (and other items) until the replacement cost is covered. Fifth, the Board approved the resolution for the services of Scott Niswonger since he would be rolling off the Board. All documents are posted on the Board of Trustees website.

7.7 Standing Committee Need – Dr. Epps

None at this time.

7.8 Notes from Meetings with the Provost and President – Mr. Hendrix

No questions.

7.9 Reports from University Committees

7.9.1 Quality and Effectiveness Sub-Council (QESC) – Dr. Byington

No Report.

7.9.2 Information Technology Council (ITC) – Mr. Hemphill

ITC met on November 9th. The Network Security Subcommittee recommended that administrative access on ETSU computers be removed by default in order to reduce our vulnerability to cyber-attacks. We are currently out of policy with our existing Access Control policy, which calls for the least-privileged access. The primary effect will be on the installation of software. ITS will implement an auto-elevate process. ITS will maintain a whitelist of approved and safe software (i.e. updates from Microsoft, Adobe, etc.). They will also have a gray listing where you will be granted access, but you will not be able to get remote access. ITS will be working with faculty and staff who may need different treatment, such as those managing lab equipment. There will be further communications and a phased rollout plan. They will most likely start with CBAT, QCOM, and researchers who need administrative access. They may also need to review employees that have old operating systems (Windows XP) and possibly remove them from the network. They are also looking at unmanaged subnetworks and multisegmentation. On a different topic, they are considering moving to Microsoft 2021.



DISCUSSIONS

McGarry: Will it be like when I wanted to add the international phonetic alphabet or a discourse analysis software on my computer and there were privilege issues?

Hemphill: Once you lose administrative access, it affects the loading of the software. Once you have software loaded, typically you can run it no problem. That is why they will have a white list of approved software. If it is something particular to you or a small group, you will want to contact ITS. If auto-elevate does not work, then talk to them about gray listing. They are trying to prevent the cyberattack pathways when you have administrator access as the default. It might slow you down a little bit, but you can still do what you need to do your job and research. The University of Memphis and Tennessee State University had their entire network compromised.

Walden: What about things not directly related to work such as Spotify or preferred internet browsers?

Hemphill: You are not the only person running Spotify, so it may be on the whitelist. Once it is an approved application, then it becomes automatic (i.e. auto-elevate).

Fiuzza: I strongly suggest they consider changing the name of the list. "White list" as something "safe" in opposition to a "blacklist" or a "black market" is dreadful.

Walden: "Safe list" would be a great alternative

7.9.3 Graduate Council – Dr. Foley

There is a proposal to eliminate the senior graduate faculty status. We currently have faculty graduate status for a five-year term. Senior membership has been eligible for a seven-year term. The Graduate Faculty Subcommittee have trouble distinguishing who should qualify for senior and who should qualify for member. There is no financial benefit for being awarded the senior member designation. ETSU is the only one using this distinction in comparison to other peer institutions. There are objective distinctions for recommending the appointment at temporary affiliate and member designations. The implementation of this proposal would begin in the 2023-23 academic year. If anybody has strong feelings, let Senator Foley, Michelle Johnson, or Brian Johnston (Chair of Graduate Council) know.

Epps: Could they change the member to seven years so we do not have to do it so often?

Foley: I will take that feedback forward.

Nivens: Under what circumstances would somebody qualify for graduate faculty status and then eventually not qualify for it?

Foley: I'm not sure how they could take it away, but it is meeting a SACS standard that requires a peer review in order to ensure people who have graduate faculty status, teaching graduate students, and mentoring graduate students, are active in that process. If your terminal degree was taken away, they could take it away.

8. Old Business
None.

9. New Business
None.

10. Comments from Guests
None.

11. Final Comments/Announcements from Senators



DISCUSSIONS

11.1 Have an incredible holiday break!!!!

12. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Epps

Second: ?

Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Senator Ashley Sergiadis (sergiadis@etsu.edu, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2020-2021) of any changes or corrections to the minutes.

Note: Meeting minutes are not a word-for-word transcript. Statements and questions by Senators may be edited and summarized for clarity.

The following will be attached to the final minutes: draft by-laws and notes from meeting with Provost McCorkle and President Noland.