



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

June 20, 2019

Roaden University Center, Room 282

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 – ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER, OPENING COMMENTS

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on June 20, 2019, in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

Chair Jones asked Kae Carpenter, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members were present:

- Trudy Harper
- Forrest Allard

Faculty Trustee, Dr. Melissa Geist was in attendance by phone.

Tennessee Tech faculty, staff, and members of the public were also in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Jones asked if there were any recommendations or changes to the minutes. With no recommendations or changes, Trustee Harper moved that the Committee approve the March 21st Academic and Student Affairs Committee Minutes as presented. Trustee Geist seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – POLICY 205 (FACULTY TENURE)

Provost Bruce stated that the proposed policy is related to aspects of attaining tenure, including eligibility, various elements of the probationary period leading up to application for tenure, the application process, various elements of the review process, and an appeals process. The proposed policy has less text about why we have academic tenure and instead focuses much more on the what, who, and how of tenure.

Trustee Jones stated that there was one area not addressed in section VII.C.3.a., and proposed that “inventions, disclosures, and/or patents” be added to the examples of documented excellence regarding research, scholarship, and creative inquiry.

Trustee Harper stated that the meaning of disclosure was unclear; however, after further discussion, it was decided that this statement was clear when considering the context of the statement.

Trustee Harper moved to send Policy 205 (Faculty Tenure) as revised, to the Board for approval and to place it on the Board’s regular agenda. Trustee Geist seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – POLICY 207 (TENURED FACULTY)

Provost Bruce stated this proposed policy addresses the process related to faculty tenure after tenure has been granted. This policy provides an appropriate means to address tenured faculty who appear to be failing to contribute to the university in a meaningful fashion. It also details the processes related to transfer of tenured faculty, tenure expiration and relinquishment, termination of tenured faculty due to financial exigency, termination of tenured faculty due to curricula changes such as deletion of academic programs, and for adequate cause.

Trustee Jones stated that the policy was well written and thorough, and proposed a few changes for clarification. Trustee Jones proposed that it be stated under VIII.C.1. and VIII.C.2. that a hearing will occur, regardless of the means by which it is initiated.

Trustee Harper stated that the proposed changes appeared to make sense, but inquired as to whether these changes could have any unintended consequences.

After much discussion, it was decided to continue this discussion in the full board meeting.

Trustee Harper moved to send Policy 207 (Tenured Faculty) as revised, to the Board for approval and to place it on the Board’s regular agenda. Trustee Geist seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – POLICY 282 (GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES)

Provost Bruce stated that there were three primary revisions to this policy. These revisions address the term of appointment for full graduate faculty, added language related to conditions for and process of revoking graduate faculty status, and added language that provides a means for non-university personnel to serve as a voting member of a graduate student’s committee.

Trustee Harper moved to send Policy 282 (Graduate Faculty Appointment and Responsibilities) as presented, to the Board for approval and to place it on the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Geist seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Vice President Johnson proposed undergraduate admissions requirements for first-time freshman under the age of 21, to be implemented fall 2020.

Trustee Harper moved to send the Undergraduate Admission Requirements as proposed, to the Board for approval and to place it on the Board's regular agenda. Trustee Geist seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – PROVOST UPDATE

Provost Bruce stated that she was exceedingly happy to report the appointment of three new deans: Dr. Joe Slater, Dean of the College of Engineering; Dr. Kimberly Hanna, Dean of the Whitson-Hester School of Nursing; Dr. Darron Smith, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology.

Provost Bruce stated that the university has done a "cluster hire" of faculty in the Department of Computer Science. The Computer Science department has experienced explosive growth over the past few years. Provost Bruce stated that the cluster hire in computer science has a focus on cybersecurity. Provost Bruce expressed her excitement about the high caliber faculty Tennessee Tech was able to recruit; all with impressive cybersecurity backgrounds and experience at prominent institutions.

Provost Bruce shared information about various student groups, such as the Chemistry students who received two major national awards at the American Chemistry Society National Meeting, History students who visited President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Agriculture and Human Ecology students who studied abroad in Dumfries, Scotland, students who attended a summer school at Yangtze University in Hubei, China, physics students who participated in a NSF (National Science Foundation) funded PIRE project (Partnerships for International Research and Education) project.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Approved,

Kae Carpenter

Kae Carpenter, Secretary