

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

September 18, 2023

via TEAMS

Members Present:

Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Megan Atkinson, Scott Christen, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, April Crockett, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennwald, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steve Frye, Syed Hasan, Samantha Hutson, Krystal Kennedy, Christy Killman, Matthew Langford, Richard Le Borne, Jane Liu, Mark Loftis, Jeannette Luna, Jennifer Mabry, Twanelle Majors, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Holly Mills, Wendy Mullen, Michael Natrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Mustafa Rajabali, Richard Rand, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Scott Smith, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Leslie Suters, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Kimberly Winkle

Members Absent:

Teddy Burch, Stephen Canfield, Yun Ding, Christopher Reames, Amber Spears, Lenly Weathers, Brenda Wilson

Call to Order

Senate President Allen called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Senator Fornehed made a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Scott Smith seconded. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes and Notes from Previous Meetings

a. April 17, 2023, Business Meeting Minutes

Senator Fornehed made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. Friendly amendments were suggested to correct name misspellings. The motion carried; Senators Creter, Donadio, Mabry, and Majors abstained.

b. April 24, 2023, President's Meeting Notes

Senator Fornehed made a motion to approve the notes. Senator Troy Smith seconded. Friendly amendments were suggested to correct name misspellings. The motion carried; Senators Creter, Donadio, Mabry, and Majors abstained.

c. August 14, 2023, Social Meeting Notes

Senator Donadio made a motion to approve the notes. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

3. Election of Faculty Senate President-Elect

Senator Rand made a motion to accept Mustafa Rajabali as President-Elect by acclamation. Senator Donadio seconded. The motion carried.

4. Confirmation of the Membership of the Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator O'Connor was asked by Senate President Allen to chair the committee. Senator Smith-Andrews clarified that the Faculty Senate President appoints members, but the Senate body does not vote to approve. The matter was tabled by Senate President Allen.

5. Election of Representatives to the University Budget Committee

Senator Rand made a motion to accept Senators Smith-Andrews and Luna as members of the University Budget Committee. Senator Maxwell seconded. The motion carried.

6. Report from Faculty Senate President

Senate President Allen shared updates and items of interest on the following:

- Additional fencing and safety measures surrounding construction areas
- Safety consideration regarding Willow Avenue/Tech Village crosswalks
- Tech was unable to purchase the land on Mahler Avenue formerly containing a laundromat and convenience store; it is unknown why the deal fell through
- John Liu is confirmed to be the next VP of Research and Economic Development
- GM gave Tech a wind tunnel that will be set up in warehouse space in Crossville; there will be money involved to disassemble and reassemble the tunnel
- Per Terry Saltzman, Westinghouse donated a 10-megawatt nuclear reactor for our future nuclear engineering program
- A new Master's in Industrial Engineering was created
- A residence employee allowed employees to live free in Tech Village; Tech will have taxes redone for the past five years, and those residents will have to pay any shortage
- The senate social centered on divisive concepts and new race considerations for the university after recent federal rulings and legislation

It was discussed that the Tech Village resident issue was a lack of following policy, or the associated people were not well-trained.

Dr. Luna added that the new VP of Research is fully funded to a point, but the full salary will depend on the VP leading by example and bringing in research dollars.

Concerns were shared about the nuclear reactor and nuclear program – timeline, regulations? Where will the reactor be housed? Senators would appreciate timely, detailed information.

7. Report from Academic Council Chair

Senator Winkle updated that the council has met once thus far, addressing Nursing approvals, information items regarding THEC policies, and new AI language in Policy 217.

8. Report from Administrative Council Chair

Senator Fornehed updated that the council has met once and addressed information-only and first-reading items regarding Policies 601, 380, and 980

9. Proposal of Questions for September 25 President's Meeting

Please send in any questions to President Allen or Secretary Mills

10. Requested Discussion Topics for Senate from Faculty

Senators are concerned about the following:

- Having sufficient controls in place for efficient project management
- Funding lines for new programs while existing programs are getting lines denied
- Parking costs, availability, and accounting – especially as these relate to employees with greater need and fees that do not change even in years when salaries are not increased
- Is the contract with The Bend church following policy and being monitored for compliance with the agreed contract?
- There seems to be no governing policy nor consistent handling of prorated summer pay. Some faculty have experienced issues with prorating based on class size without regard to expectations; many feel this should be addressed in policy for consistency across campus so that faculty can make more informed decisions about summer loads.
- Watermark reports and formatting offers little customization thus far
- Requirements for using accommodated testing in the TLC; some faculty felt the guidelines were difficult, but it was shared by a library faculty that the service of Testing in the TLC is optional and not required

Agenda item 10.f. was tabled after a motion and a second from Senators Fornehed and Rajabali respectively was carried.

11. Such Other Matters

A senator was concerned about the requirement to have Spring courses loaded into Coursedog by September 15, which seems accelerated based on previous years' planning for future semesters. This is new software, and the campus must continue working out the issues.

Adjournment

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Fornehed seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved: 10/23/2023