

Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2025

Present: Michael Allen, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Scott Christen, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, Andrew Donadio, Ciana Bowhay, Mary Lou Fornehed, Jerry Gannod, Syed Hasan, Colin Hill, Amy Hill, Alfred Kalyanapu, Krystal Kennedy, Christy Killman, Matthew Langford, Jeannette Luna, Jennifer Mabry, Twanelle Majors, Ann Manginelli, David Mann, Holly Mills, Michael Nattrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Yi Peng, Mustafa Rajabali, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Amber Spears, Leslie Suters, Kristen Trent, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Lenly Weathers, Brenda Wilson, Kexin Xu

Absent: Wei Tsun Chang, Yun Ding, Joshua Field, Melissa Geist, Ka Grimes, Richard LeBorne, Dennis Tennant, Thomas Timmerman

Guests: Holly Anthony, Kimberly Winkle, Lisa Zagumny

Meeting called to order by Senate President Rajabali at 3:37 PM.

1. Approval of agenda.
 - a. Moved: Smith Andrews Seconded: Mills
 - b. Discussion: None. Agenda approved.
2. Approval of [minutes from previous meetings](#)
 - a. November 18th, 2024 business meeting minutes. Moved by Smith-Andrews and seconded by Donadio. No discussion. Minutes approved.
3. Update from Faculty Lead for the “Innovation in All We Do” priority within TTU’s strategic plan, Tech Tomorrow, discussion with request for input - Dr. Holly Anthony:
 - a. Slides contain updates on progress with proposed changes and potential new category names. Discussions and questions are ongoing. We would love ideas from faculty campus-wide on student learning outcomes (SLO), use of digital badges, MOOC’s, etc. Legacy courses/existing courses will fit in new areas. The next direction will be how many credit hours to require in each of these categories. We welcome thoughts on that. Any solution will not add credits to the equation. We are collecting an inventory of things that “can be done” and innovative opportunities that are available. Insights are appreciated. Reach out and we can schedule open meetings.
 - b. Discussion: The committee has done amazing work. Suggested category names included ‘Communication and Technology in communication, ‘Cultural Expression’ in humanities/fine arts, with an SLO that includes foreign languages. ‘Quantitative Analysis and Digital Literacy’ could combine math and computer science literacies. We will be able to provide students with more choices.
4. Update from the team reviewing Policy 205 & 206: Dr. Lisa Zagumny

- a. Review of policies started in late September. Both policies have been reviewed by section (purpose, process, criteria, consideration, changes, appeals). We are hoping to come back in February for a first read. Today, we would love to have feedback. In the review, our goals have been alignment, consistent language, having things in right place (policy vs. procedure), and making the two policies mirror each other better.
 - b. Discussion/Questions: In Policy 205 A – we should start out with what tenure is instead of what tenure isn't. In Sec. 7.B.1 – “may” should probably be must. A general question about service and outreach – should the two be ignored if they are not discipline related? (Don't think so; it up to disciplines and departments to determine how service is expressed). Some phrasing is problematic – such as “job for life”. This policy must go hand in hand with departmental policy; less definition on terms and leave that to departments. Non-binary, inclusive language should be used going forward. Send any comments or questions to the committee. We can always have a special session if need be to discuss changes.
5. Nomination of faculty representative for the Board of Trustees: Jeannette Luna – the procedures are on our webpage. A nominating committee will be formed, and requests will send out to all faculty, with criteria listed. Last time we asked for a letter of support and a cv as well. Request for applications will go out by Feb. 1 and will be due by Feb. 15. We may want to do an in-person when we do a vote. Committee volunteers: Linda Null, Michael Natrass (chair), Megan Atkinson. Link to procedures: <https://www.tntech.edu/facultysenate/facultyrepprocedures.php>
6. Appointment of a committee to nominate the next Faculty Senate president-elect. We need another committee of volunteers – Amy Hill, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Christy Killman, Kristine Craven.
7. Appointment of a committee to nominate the next Faculty Senate secretary. Volunteers for this committee? Nominating committee for president elect can do both.
8. Outcomes from the Faculty Senate retreat: Policy renewal is a complex process. Debbie Combs gave a great overview and answered questions. There is not a process in place for faculty senate or campus at large. On the policy website, there will be a list, as well as one on Tech Times for policies that are coming up for renewal (at the 1 year and 6 month mark). Faculty senate can divvy up the policies possibly, so that policies are not renewed without eyes on them. We can add to the excel sheet that was created prior for faculty senate to keep track.
9. Ombuds Discussion: Notes from the discussion were collected. Some ideas: to hire one from outside; to hire inside; to hire an emeritus. There are pros and cons to each approach. Most universities have internal hires with a stipend or reduced teaching load. Look through the descriptions. We will draft a proposal to present to the president. We

need to research some aspirational peers as well. Talk to faculty and get feedback. UTK and APSU have two.

10. Such Other Matters.

- Removal of DEI has affected faculty, and some research grants have been affected.

Motion to adjourn by Senator Christen. Second by Smith-Andrews.

Calendar Reminders:

Senator meeting dates (business and other) can be found here: [Faculty Senate Meeting Dates for 2024.docx](#)