

Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept. 8, 2025

Location: In-person in Lab Science Commons Room 1205 and online via Teams

Present: M. Allen (Board of Trustees Faculty Rep.), M. Atkinson, C. Brown, W. Carroll, R. Chitiyo, S. Christen, M. Comer, K. Craven, A. Hill, C. Hill, M. Hu, J. Jenkins, C. Killman, R. LeBorne, A. Manginelli, L. Null, B. O'Connor, M. Olsen, H. Park, Y. Peng, M. Rajabali, L.A. Shipley, S. Seiler, A. Spears, L. Suters, K. Trent, S. Wendt, B. Wilson

Absent: J. Baier, S. Browning, M. Creter, A. Donadio, J. Field, J. Gannod, K. Grimes, R. Hall, S. Hasan, A. Kalyanapu, K. Kennedy, J. Mabry, T. Majors, D. Mann, M. Nattrass, J. Ojo, D. Tennant, T. Timmerman, K. Xu

1. Call to Order: 3:43 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda: Due to technical issues and lack of a quorum, the agenda was revised to move the original Agenda Item 6 to become Item 3.

3. Accessibility Report (Informational Item from CITL Director Jason Beach):

- April 24, 2026, is when the new rules go into effect. Right now, we are in compliance.
- Faculty really need to start looking at the spring courses.
- Right now, the goal is **70% green on the accessibility report, with 0 major or severe issues.**
- The timeline is available at tntech.edu/citl/accessibility.php and the following is the informational page on Panorama: tntech.edu/citl/tech-services/panorama/index.php.
- Responses to Questions:
 - If a document was created before the April 24 deadline, it would need to be accessible on the date you're using it if it is after April 24.
 - After discussion on written and digital formula translations for the screen readers, Dr. Beach said the issue in terms of the accuracy of the translations would need to be resolved at a departmental/dean level. However, he mentioned he would make an inquiry into budgets for global solution (it was proposed that a grant could be written for a software platform). In the meantime, if faculty have issues with PDF accessibility, then they should send

them to the CITL at citl@tnitech.edu for the item to be sent to Panorama. The CITL requests faculty input on what will work best for them.

- Anything, including recruitment materials, that is made in a digital format has to be accessible.

4. Approval of Minutes and Notes from 2024-2025

MOTION TO APPROVE: Christen, SECONDED by Rajabali.

APPROVAL PASSED, with an amendment to add Dr. O'Connor's attendance at the Nov. 25, 2024, meeting with the President.

5. Project Talon Update (Informational Item from VP Kevin Vetter):

- Dr. Vetter was not present, so this item was skipped.

6. Student Academic Integrity Report (Informational Item from AIO Sharon Holderman):

- There is a website concerning student academic integrity: tnitech.edu/provost/academicintegrity/instructor-responsibilities.php.
- Dr. Holderman facilitates the process if there's a violation (send concerns, questions, etc. to AIO@tnitech.edu).
- Faculty have four responsibilities: 1. Foster academic integrity in their classes. 2. Understand and follow the new policy on student academic integrity (Policy 216), namely a student's grade cannot be lowered unless the faculty member files an official charge. 3. Clearly communicate to students what they can and cannot use or what is allowed and not allowed to do when it comes to completing their course assignments and tests. 4. Address violations when they occur. One of the biggest changes from the old policy is that you have to talk to the student first. That goes on the reporting form. Then you as a faculty have a choice of whether you want to report them with a penalty, or you can choose a no-harm route where you allow the student to **redo it without a penalty**. There was further discussion on the details of implementing the new policy.

7. Tennessee Faculty Senates (TUFS) Update (Informational Item from Senate President Craven):

- From the meeting held in late July, most universities are dealing with similar issues including implementing Oracle, dealing with pay issues, increasing enrollment, and ensuring compliance with the April 24, 2026, ADA guidelines.
- The State is working on a directed missions process where some high school students can be guaranteed admission.

- The TUFS website needs to be updated.
- The next TUFS meeting is Oct. 3 at Austin Peay and is hosted by the TUFS president.

8. Faculty Handbook Review (Informational Item from Senate Secretary Amy Hill):

- Bedelia Russell has formed a small group to review the current Faculty Handbook, integrate new sections more seamlessly, and to make it more intuitive.
- A. Hill is the liaison between that group and the Faculty Senate. Dr. Sally Pardue will accept suggestions from engineering faculty.

9. Other Such Matters

- O'Connor revisited the handbook issue and said that in the past, the faculty handbook had been a de facto contract.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Christen, SECONDED by Atkinson.

APPROVAL PASSED, meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Amy Hill

Faculty Senate Secretary
2025-2026