

## **Administrative Council**

### **Tennessee Technological University**

#### **Minutes Administrative Council November 14, 2001**

##### **Members Present:**

Ballal, Bell, Bledsoe, Boles, Burduck, Case, Cho, Davis, Dickson, Duvier, Hays,  
Johnson, Jonakin, Kemp, Lee, Marquis, Matson, Maxwell, McGee, Mills,  
Mussacchio, Muse, Pogue, Rector, Terneus, Tilley, Whitney, Wilds, Zagumny

##### **Members Absent:**

Allison, Bailey, Burnett, Click, Fesler, Johnson, Marable, Nivens, Semmes, Waugh,  
Wilson

##### **Others Present:**

Boucher, Coleman, Harrell, Larimore, Laxton, Nation, Tolbert

##### **Summary of Proceedings:**

Approved agenda.

Approved minutes of October 10, 2001, with modification.

Approved SGA Bills (No. S-001-06, No. S01-30 and No. S01-11).

Approved revisions to Athletics Department Policies and Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics Manual.

Approved Constitution for Institute of Transportation Engineers at Tennessee Tech University.

Approved Constitution for Blue Llama Paintball Club at Tennessee Tech University.

Approved concept of suggested common calendar for beginning and ending of semesters

with other TBR four-year institutions (APSU, MTSU, and TSU).

## **Proceedings**

Chairman Mancil Johnson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Dr. McGee moved to approve the agenda of November 14, 2001, as distributed. Ms. Case seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2001, was made by Dr. Musacchio and seconded by Dr. Burduck. One correction—the presence of Dr. Sharon Whitney was noted. Modified minutes of October 10, 2001, were APPROVED.

Dr. Cho moved to approve SGA Bills No. S-001-06, No. S01-30 and No. S01-11 as presented. Dr. Burduck seconded. SGA Bill No. S01-11 is an act to provide for the University nomination of student representatives for the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The current procedure for making the selection for a representative was questioned. SGA President Jason Wilds addressed the question by stating that announcements are made at SGA meetings for nominations of representatives. Nominations are presented at the Tennessee Council of SGA Presidents and the selection narrowed to three nominees with the Governor concluding the selection process. Question called, MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Cho moved to approve the revisions to the Athletics Department Policies and Procedures for the Intercollegiate Athletics Manual as submitted. Dr. Burduck seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lee moved to approve the Constitution for the Institute of Transportation Engineers at Tennessee Tech University. Dr. Burduck seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

Dr. Burduck moved to approve the Constitution for the Blue Llama Paintball Club at Tennessee Tech University. Mr. Dickson seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Tolbert reported on the issue of the Tennessee Board of Regents' (TBR) suggested plan for a common academic calendar. As part of the Geier stipulation, APSU, MTSU, and TSU have already adopted such a plan. The TBR is recommending that all other four-year institutions implement a common calendar plan. Motion by Mr. Wilds to accept the suggested plan for a common academic calendar as stated with a common beginning and ending of semesters as outlined in the handout (illustration of APSU, MTSU and TSU common calendars). Ms. Lee seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

Dr. Zagumny moved that the early registration period for classes at Tennessee Tech University be closed at 4:30 p.m. on the final day of scheduled classes that semester. Dr. Kemp seconded. Dr. Zagumny stated that currently the early registration period ends on

the Wednesday following the University commencement ceremony. This leads students to believe that faculty advisors will be available through this period. In reality, faculty members are difficult to find after the final day of classes. Even during finals week, faculty are available to students at limited times. The result of the later registration deadline and limited faculty availability is that departmental staff must either refuse the student advisement or advise the students themselves. Dr. Cho stated that a number of students are unsure if they will pass or fail the current classes they are enrolled in, so they wait to register until after final grades are available. Dr. Cho also stated that department chairs should be in departmental offices and available to students for advisement during this period. Ms. Tolbert reported that a total of 364 students registered between December 9-19 last year. Dr. McGee questioned the magnitude of the proposed action without prior analysis being performed. Following additional discussion, Dr. Zagumny removed the motion, and Dr. Kemp rescinded the second.

Dr. Zagumny moved that the bylaws and/or constitutions of student organizations at Tennessee Tech University cannot require of its members or officers a written or verbal profession of religious faith or beliefs. Dr. Kemp seconded. Dr. Zagumny justified his action by stating that Tennessee Tech University is a state funded university and as such must not support any policy or activity that would require prescribed religious faith or beliefs of its faculty, staff or students. Mr. Boucher informed the Council that the TBR attorneys have been consulted on this matter, and that we are awaiting a legal research white paper for guidance on this issue. A lengthy discussion on religious freedom and the constraints on religious freedom relative to religious organizations was held. A number of Council members voiced an opinion that it would be prudent to wait on the state attorney's white paper before taking action on this issue. The message of intolerance of certain groups is not a message to convey to student organizations. Dr. Zagumny removed the motion, and Dr. Kemp rescinded the second to the motion. Dr. Zagumny stated it was not his intent to attack religion, but that he was personally opposed to the requirement of statements of religious belief. He also stated that the white paper should be requested to clarify this matter.

Motion by Dr. Cho to adjourn. Dr. Burduck seconded. ADJOURNMENT at 4:15 p.m.

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Terri Watson, Recorder

Documents on file with minutes of meeting:

SGA Bill No. S001-006, No. S01-30, No. S01-11

Revisions to Athletics Department Policies & Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics Manual

Constitution for Institute of Transportation Engineers of TTU

Constitution for Blue Llama Paintball Club at TTU

Suggested Plan for Common Academic Calendar