

4.17.23

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

Via TEAMS

In attendance: President Maxwell, Secretary Killman, Past-President Luna, President-elect Allen  
Senators Reames, Comer, Park, Hasan, Craven, Smith-Andrews, Scott Smith, Meadows, Fornehed, Loftis,  
Mullen, Liu, Turner, Hudson, O'Connor, Null, Isbell, Manginelli, Hermann-Turner, Weathers, Brachey,  
Hajdik, Witcher, Mills, Crockett, Upole, Sisk, Lee, Pickering, Troy Smith, Rajabali, Allcott, Winkle,  
Langford, Duncan, Ojo, Rand, Ding, Adams, Canfield

Absent: Senators Fennewald, Swartling, Frye, Burch, Spears, Howard, Shipley, Alley

The business meeting was called to order by President Maxwell at 3:35 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Allen. Seconded by Senator Fornehed. No discussion. Motion carried.

Minutes and notes will be voted on next week at a special business meeting before the meeting with the President.

Motion for yes/no vote to send the prepared letter to the Board of Trustees secretary, Lee Wray, to be included at the upcoming board meeting moved and seconded. Opened for discussion. The letter asks that incorrect statements by a Trustee about state-allocated funds only being able to be used for merit pay stop immediately and the correct information be presented.

Question:

Is this something that can be handled in real time in the future?

Answer:

At the March board meeting, Trustee Alcott did make an effort to correct the false statements.

Comment:

It would be great to have something on record. Sometimes it comes down to those following decorum and rules of order of meetings. If something has gone on record, it can quickly be referred back to.

Doing it during a meeting is always preferred, but there is value in the Chair reading a letter.

Question:

Is it possible to share the screen so we can all look at the letter? Is this a request for minutes to be corrected or for the statement to be acknowledged as incorrect?

Answer:

Correct the unclear statements made either as an agenda item or as a statement by the Chair.

Asking for public verbal clarification that the statement was factually inaccurate information. It was stated that merit pay is legally requisite, and it is not. Merit pay is one form among others of how to distribute funds from the Tennessee General Assembly.

Question:

The request is that Chair Harper correct the unclear statement made by Mr. Stites.

Answer:

Yes, she has a few choices on how to correct the inaccurate information. We specify in the letter that merit pay is not the legal requisite. Stating so confuses and spreads misinformation.

Comments:

The language says, "correct for the record".

The statement was very clear but rather inaccurate.

Comment:

Would like the Law to be in the hands of Chair Harper because there's a chance that one might think, that's the way he interprets the law. Read the Law out loud to the board for the record. Cannot be left to interpretation.

To recap, we are discussing the vote. Friendly amendments. 1. non-substantive grammatical changes. 2. In the second paragraph change the word 'correct' to 'inaccurate'. 3. Append all respective laws from Tennessee code annotated and include all codes from Tech Policy Central that are cited in the first paragraph.

We should not use anyone's name; we are talking about inaccurate information. Should make the most impact with the least amount of risk.

Should not be a personal issue or attack. We want to get the correct information on the record. There is a difference between false information and personal interpretation of the law.

Question:

What action are we trying to incite with the letter?

Answer:

Action from Chair Harper. She can choose how but she must take action.

Discussion continued until there was a call to vote on the amended letter.

Voting via poll everywhere.

Results of the vote 40 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstention

The letter will be sent to Board Secretary Lee Wray.

Next order of business

The Nominations committee consisted of Senators Allen, Smith-Andrews, and Fornehed. There were no nominations that were made and accepted. The floor was open for nominations for president-elect for the 2024-25 academic year.

Nomination from the floor for Senator Rajabali for President-elect. He asked to have time to think about it. It is a time commitment.

The decision to take nominations today and revisit later was made.

Need a secretary for the coming year. Holly Mills's name was put forward and seconded. She has done it before. She volunteers and accepts the nomination.

Call for a vote for Holly Mills for secretary. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christy Killman

Approved: September 18, 2023