

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

November 20, 2023

via TEAMS

Members Present:

Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Stephen Canfield, Melissa Comer, Mark Creter, April Crockett, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennewald, 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, Holly Mills, Wendy Mullen, Michael Nattrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Mustafa Rajabali, Richard Rand, Christopher Reames, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Scott Smith, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Leslie Suters, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Brenda Wilson, Kimberly Winkle

Members Absent:

Scott Christen, Kris Craven, Yun Ding, Lori Maxwell, Amber Spears, Lenly Weathers

Guests Present:

David Elizandro

Call to Order

Senate President Allen called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Senator Rand made a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes and Notes from Previous Meetings

Senate Secretary Mills requested more time to complete the minutes and notes for October. Senator Rand made a motion to table the approval minutes and notes. Senator Donadio seconded. The motion carried.

3. Ratification of Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Rand made a motion to ratify the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Scott Smith seconded. The motion carried.

4. Metrics for Academic Program Systems

Professor David Elizandro presented to the Faculty Senate his work using the Deming system of profound knowledge to analyze courses, program outcomes, and effectiveness to improve outcomes via a systematic approach. Those with questions about this analysis or wishing to support the continuation of this study should contact Professor Elizandro.

5. Report from the Faculty Senate President

Senate President Allen reported on the following:

- The President's Cabinet has been uneventful other than highlighting progress on building projects and homecoming. The President had to cancel several things due to his presence in Nashville regarding Governor Lee and the LGI (locally-governed institutions) budgets.
- The funding formula for THEC (Tennessee Higher Education Commission) will be reworked next year. Instead of looking at the number of students enrolled, they will be looking at the number of majors.
- There is occasionally a rebalance of the budget in the state; Tech received \$400,000 and no more, while some TCAT schools received more. This could mean upcoming tuition increases to keep up with inflation. Tech is studying whether to increase tuition a smaller amount each year or have one large increase to last several years. There may be budget constraints to deal with any funding issues.
- President Allen responded to a question about the Master Plan timetable. Per Jim Cobb in a Cabinet meeting, the Master Plan is projected to 2035.
- In answer to a question about how THEC restructuring could affect our construction projects, President Allen stated that building capital comes from the state and THEC does not affect that funding. THEC typically sets aside money for each institution for things like grants or new initiatives, but with restructuring, Tech will likely see less of that money.

6. Report from the Academic Council Chair

Senator Winkle reported that since the last council meeting, there have been lots of name changes and new concentrations added, as well as changes to Policy 259.

7. Report from the Administrative Council Chair

Senator Fornehed updated that the council saw Policy 508 as a new information item, approved Policy 516 changes, and that the report to the University Assembly was accepted.

8. Discussion of Predatory Journals and Multiple Authors

Senator Rand discussed the issue regarding gift authorship and mass authorship of research in review or published. The question is whether these mass lists of authors undermine the quality of the research or call into question academic integrity. Senator Rand also stated that this trend of mass authorship was seen as unethical by most publishing outlets. Senators weighed the issue and agreed that there is room to address this in Policy 720, and that there should either be campus-wide or department-specific rules regarding authorship. Senate President Allen said he would bring this discussion up with the Provost.

9. Discussion of Postal Service Issues

Senate President Allen would like to know if anyone is experiencing trouble with our campus USPS. A few senators indicated a slow-down or fewer deliveries; President Allen will ask the President's Cabinet about the issue.

10. Request for Questions for Meeting with President Oldham on November 27

Senators discussed whether to have an open forum or submit questions; an open forum was chosen. Senators also discussed the possibility of meeting with the VP of Research or Jim Cobb instead of President Oldham in future meetings. It was also floated that the Provost may also be a guest or appear in place of President Oldham so that several things under her purview could be

discussed (for example: inappropriate substitutions in advising, summer/prorated pay, and issues with the AEC and TLC Testing). Senators agreed to request Jim Cobb to speak about building projects.

11. Such Other Matters

No matters were brought to the floor.

Adjournment

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Fornehed seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Approved: 01/29/2024