

**Faculty Senate Social Meeting
Bell Hall 282**

August 14, 2023

Members Present:

Michael Allen, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Scott Christen, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennewald, Mary Lou Fornehed, Syed Hasan, Samantha Hutson, Krystal Kennedy, Christy Killman, Matthew Langford, Jane Liu, Mark Loftis, Jennifer Mabry, Ann Manginelli, Holly Mills, Wendy Mullen, Michael Nattrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Hyewon Park, Mustafa Rajabali, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Hannah Upole, Brenda Wilson, Kim Winkle

Guests Present:

Ian McCrary, Rob Owens, Troy Perdue

Senate President Allen began the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Before calling the first guest forward, President Allen announced that per Karen Lykins, dossiers would not be public.

Speaker: Troy Perdue, University Counsel

Mr. Perdue spoke on Tennessee legislation regarding the teaching of divisive concepts. Senate members discussed possible classroom scenarios and Mr. Perdue explained the law and possible exceptions in detail. Further information and inquiry should be made to Mr. Perdue.

Speaker: Dr. Robert Owens, Chief Diversity Officer

Dr. Owens spoke about how the recent rulings regarding affirmative action will affect the future of race-based or minority-based admission and scholarships at Tennessee Tech. He mentioned that it is beneficial to have diversity, equity, and inclusion instruction in classes and departments. Further information and inquiry should be made to Dr. Owens.

President Allen noted that he learned several of our senators are not local, so meetings will remain virtual via TEAMS for the academic year.

Special thanks go to Diane Smith and the Office of the President for providing refreshments for this meeting.

Approved: 09/18/2023