

## **Faculty Senate Business Meeting**

August 30, 2021

**Submitted by K. Craven**

### **Members Present:**

Douglas Airhart, Dan Allcott, Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Steve Canfield, Melissa Comer, April Crocket, Kris Craven, Dennis Duncan, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steven Garner, Scott Hagarty, David Hajdik, Syed Rafay Hasan, Katherine Hermann-Turner, Tammy Howard, Samantha Hutson, Janet Isbell, Christy Killman, Matt Langford, David Larimore, Emily Lee, Jane Liu, Mark Loftis, Chad Luke, Jeanette Luna, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Jennifer Meadows, Holly Mills, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Kristin Pickering, Elizabeth Ramsey, Richard Rand, Christopher Reames, Lee Ann Shipley, Drew Sisk, Scott Smith, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Dan Swartling, Lenly Weathers, Robert Wilbanks, Kimberly Winkle, Laith Zuraikat

### **Members Absent:**

Stephanie Adams, Yun Ding, Holly Stretz, Russ Witcher

**Special Guests:** Brandi Kriebel, Steven Keller, Heather Cathey, Brent Drexler, Savannah Griffin, Aaron Lay

### **Call to Order**

Senate President Jeanette Luna called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Senator Duncan made a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Bryant seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

### **Approval of Minutes and Notes**

Some non-substantive edits were discussed. The institution that left the TN eCampus was ETSU, not TSU.

#### **1. April 19, 2021 Business Meeting**

Senator Mills made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Business Meeting as edited. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

#### **2. April 26, 2021 Meeting with the President**

Senator Duncan moved that the Notes be approved as edited. Senator Langford seconded. The motion carried.

### **Committee Memberships**

3. Faculty Affairs Committee – ratify membership from 2021-2022

The following changes are proposed. Senator Troy Smith to replace Senator Jeff Roberts on the committee. Senator Allen moved to approve the substitution. Senator Mills seconded. The motion carried

4. Budget Advisory Committee – need two members

Senate President Luna called for nominations from the floor. Senator Smith-Andrews volunteered to serve. There w12 Tf1dAQoo oe

- a. SGA Guests: Aaron Lay (SGA President), Savannah Griffin (SGA Treasurer), Brent Drexler (SGA Chief of Staff), Addison Dorris (Secretary of External Affairs)
- b. Nursing Joint Program Guests: Heather Cathey and Amy Burse
- c. Engineering Joint Program Guests: Dylan Cox and Ben Eldreth

Senate President Luna discussed the information graphics that were sent to the Senate with the other documents last week. There was some discussion about the Good Friday Holiday – it doesn't appear on the calendar at this time. Senate President Luna also stated that she met with the Provost during the regularly scheduled time earlier today and they discussed issues with the calendar. Senate President Luna then opened the floor for the special guests to express their ideas and opinions on the academic calendar.

Special Guest Drexler said that he has talked with some other students about the new class schedule and academic

the semester on time due to the holds from the incomplete grades. Senator Howard, also a student in this program, talked about issues she has had with group work required for the classes. There are also implications for the certification that is a requirement of the program. Students need to complete hours at an internship. With the longer semester, it is hard to get the required hours which not only impacts the degree completion but also has a high financial impact on the student. She is aware of students who would have voted differently if they had completely understood these issues when they took the survey.

There was additional discussion of whether the extra week of the semester is required for accreditation, as this was given as one reason for the extra week being added when the class length was shortened. It was pointed out that other peer institutions are receiving the accreditation without the extra week with the same class length. Reducing the multitude of different start/stop times for classes could be fixed administratively without the drastic changes that were implemented.

There is some confusion over the current situation with the restrictions placed on course expectations the week before finals, often called dead week. A clarification of this would be appreciated.

Senate President Luna and Special Guest Lay are both concerned about the amount of advanced planning and the need for urgency in proceeding if there is a hope of any changes moving forward. Senate President Luna asked Special Guest Lay if he could bring this topic to the SGA for discussion and partner with the Senate on this issue. He agreed. She also gave him authority to share the information graphics that were presented at the beginning.

Special Guest Drexler reiterated that he felt misled by the presentation of the questions on the survey. He definitely did not understand the big picture in regard to moving the class start/stop times and shortening the length of the classes. He felt like the students who were surveyed were led in the wrong direction.

- a. Working Group to Partner with the Women's Center – need 4 faculty
  - i. Lactation spaces, Policy Updates, etc.

Senate President Luna said that she will distribute the notes from the Workshop. She also pointed out that a Working Group is needed because this is a big task with about a dozen policies that need to be addressed. This group will be led by Helen Hunt, Director of the Women's Center. The following Senators volunteered: Katherine Hermann-Turner, Dan Allcott, Drew Sisk, Lee Ann Shipley, Tammy Howard

Other notes: Pregnant faculty members can get handicap parking by going to HR; like to have a packet to give to new faculty members; would like to get updates at the business meetings

2. Priority Items for Meeting with the President
  - a. Enrollment
  - b. Launchpad Success

There had been a Resolution several years ago about extending benefits to same sex couples. It was passed by the Senate, but nothing further happened. Is this something that the Senate should pursue? Senate President Luna suggested that we should investigate the issue to find out what happened to the prior Resolution. We have seen that President Oldham responds better when there are facts and other supporting arguments to a topic.

There is continuing concern regarding the changes in the Budget model and the fact that funds are now being distributed to different departments in different manners. Some departments went to great effort to increase their student hours due to the benefit in receiving student course fees and now they are no longer receiving these fees. How are they now supposed to operate without these fees? There was also some concern about who does and who doesn't pay the fees. For example, when spouses and dependents get the 50% discount on tuition, they still pay the full

**Adjournment**

Senator Mills moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Howard seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Approved: September 27, 2021