

**Faculty Senate Business Meeting**  
September 27, 2021

**Submitted by K. Craven**

**Members Present:**

Stephanie Adams, Douglas Airhart, Dan Allcott, Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Troy Brachey,

Senator Smith moved to approve the Minutes from the Special meeting on September 13. Senator Rand seconded. There was friendly amendment to add to the minutes links to the Resolutions that were passed. The motion carried.

4. September 20, 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting with the President Notes

Senator Rand moved to approved the Notes from the meeting with the President on September 20. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. There was a question about the amounts of money being received by the students through the HEERF federal support. A friendly amendment was added to confirm the correct values. There was one abstention. The motion carried.

**Committee Membership Follow-up**

5. Budget Advisory Committee Sandra Smith-Andrews and Troy Smith

Senator Smith-Andrews volunteered at the last meeting. The Senate needs another member to serve. Senator Smith was asked if he would agree to serve. He agreed. The first meeting is Thursday of this week. Senator Smith-Andrews moved to approve Senator Smith for this position. Senator Rand seconded. Senator Smith abstained. The motion carried.

**Policy 223 (~20 minutes)**

1.

Answer: If there are significant changes, then it needs to go to the Curriculum Committee for

Answer: The cost is different. Resources are different. We are still working the numbers. Currently there are approximately 15% of the courses designated as web, this is almost 30% of the total number of courses.

Question: All web courses are on iLearn. Isn

Answer Technology Access Fees (TAF) for the iLearn software, it is a large percentage of the TAF funds.

Question: There is an additional fee for taking a course online. As we transition to universal course design, should this fee disappear?

Answer: I disagree a bit. There are some nuances that do not translate to iLearn. As far as iLearn, let me clarify from earlier there is a shell enabled for every course, but there is no

coming from the TAF funding, we want to use it in an appropriate way.

Question: Will this affect courses in the TN eCampus?

Answer: No. That is a different agreement. They set the policies and procedures for those courses.

Question: Section E, #2 An editorial request. It talks about additional external review for these

Answer: This should not be an issue. The intention is to identify course quality review. I will have Dr. Huo do a re-read.

Question other policy? It implies that the external review applies to all online courses.

Answer: I will need to see if it was required by another source, but your comment makes sense.

Question: Then where would it reside?

Answer: There were task forces that worked on this policy. I need to review where that came from, maybe from those task forces. I will track where it came from.

Any other comments and/or questions, please contact Dr. Russell directly

Policy 208 (~20 mins)

1. Faculty Workload and Overload (Senate President Luna/Mark Stevens)

It is a SACSCOC requirement to have a policy. Previously we worked under the TBR policy. When we moved to having our own Board of Trustees (BOT), we needed to generate our own policy. There was a committee formed which included faculty and Senators. Then the pandemic happened and the policy was never finalized. This policy uses the same conditions and requirements as the one used when under TBR. There is a need to accommodate all diverse categories of work done by faculty members. One approach is to develop a more refined policy with definitions for amounts of each possible aspect of faculty work. This will result in a very long and complicated policy that is restrictive in its application. Also, it would require a change in the policy for any new considerations that come up. The other approach is a more general policy that leaves much of the detail up to each unit to define the application based on their own standards. That is the approach that was chosen. With a SACSCOC report coming due, it is needed now. He is here for questions and input from the senate before presenting it to the Administrative Council on Wednesday and then it will go to the Provost.

## 2. Discussion and Feedback

will be reviewed by the Provost to protect faculty members from being overloaded without compensation.

Question from the chat: 7.5 hours / week = 3 cr hrs, in SACSCOC. Is this the standard we will be using?

Answer: Our policy was derived from SACSCOC policy. We are not dictating specific totals. There are other considerations now. What does the new 15-week semester mean? This is not an attempt to put clock hours to credit hours. Also, classes are 50 minutes, not an hour. SACSCOC preparation, grading, etc. We are looking at averages.

Question: There is discussion of moonlighting in this policy, what is that? Is it similar to overtime?

Answer: This word comes from Tennessee state law. There are restrictions on summer work and pay, no more than 6 hrs overload outside of summer. It is an attempt to assure that the state gets their 37.5 hour per week from each faculty member.

## **Report from Faculty Affairs (~20 mins)**

### 1. Report on Recent Case Result (Sandi Smith-Andrews)

There was a case back in May where a faculty member applied for Full Professor and believed they were treated unfairly. There was work by the committee over the summer to investigate the case. There was support by the peers, chair, and dean but the Provost denied the promotion. There was also a question about the reporting of the results and the time required for the final decision causing the faculty member a chance to reapply. Therefore, Senate President Luna has asked the provost to join the next meeting to discuss the following items.

### 2. Discussion

There are concerns about communication.

The applicable policy/policies need reviewed.

Are the procedures being followed properly?

What is the current status of the cover letter for dossiers?

## **Policy 600 (~20 mins)**

### 1. Discussion of Section III-C (Luna/Alcott/Smith)

### 2. Discussion

There are some concerns about the phrasing of Section III, part C. If it looks like you are guilty, you will be punished as if you are guilty. This also needs to be discussed with President Oldham at the next meeting.