

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Macon Cove Campus
MA C 175
September 18, 2018

1. Call to Order and Roll

Faculty Senate president Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00.
Secretary Doug Branch called the roll:

William Summons, **President** (18-20)

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (17-19) **Secretary**
Bill Hill (18-20)
Matthew Lexow (18-20)
MaLinda Wade (17-19)
Candace Washington (17-19) absent

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Charles (Eddie) Baker (18-20) **Vice-President**
Thomas Midgley (17-19)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Joyce Johnson (18-20)
Delores Thomas-Boland (17-19) absent

Department Senators

Shilpa Desai (18-20) **Allied Health**
Joanitha Barnes (17-19) **Business and Legal Studies, Treasurer**
Annette Fournet (17-19) **Communications and Fine Arts**
Tiffany Akin (17-19) **Languages and Literature**
Matthew Palotti (18-20) **Natural Sciences**
Marilyn Wilbourn (18-20) **Nursing** absent
Frank Daniels (17-19) **Mathematics, Parliamentarian** absent

Leslie Peeples (17-19) **Technologies** absent
Ed Reid (17-19) **Social and Behavioral Science**

2. Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the April, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted to the website.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

- A. Eddie Baker reported on the executive committee's regular meeting with Chris Ezell. Items from that meeting included the following:
 - a. Announcement that overload pay was recently increased, and faculty have already seen those increases in their most recent paychecks.
 - b. Assurance that an organizational chart, including phone numbers, will be prepared and distributed soon.
 - c. Confidence that a new employee to operate the print shop at the Union Ave. campus would be soon beginning duties.
 - d. Chris' expression of appreciation to faculty for having helped with registration at the beginning of the semester and his pleasure that enrollment is up about 2% from last year.
 - e. Announcement of a new compensation system, one that takes degrees earned and years of service into consideration, that is currently under administrative consideration.
 - f. Announcement of a new funeral services department, housed at Whitehaven Center, for which a chair will be hired. That department should begin offering classes in January. Further, Southwest will be the first public college in Tennessee to offer such a program. Our fire science department will also begin offering classes again, and a transfer degree for agriculture is being planned.
 - g. Discussion of a repurposing of the Gill Center, which will eventually probably be turned into an innovation center, a place to house non-credit training programs. Gill may also be where we house Workforce Development.
- B. Doug Branch reported that he and his committee charged with suggesting changes to the procedure to select the promotion and tenure committees would make recommendations by next month's meeting.
- C. Bill Summons spoke for Frank Daniels, who chairs a committee charged with making recommendations about faculty participation in commencement exercises. Bill reported that the committee was

exploring the possibility that the senate request only approximately half the faculty be required to attend commencement every year. Bill also reported that he believes the administration will not schedule commencement after May 15 in the future. After the meeting, Frank sent his committee's proposal, to be discussed by the senate and if approved sent to Dr. Hall. That proposal is attached to the minutes.

- D. (Bill Weppner's report actually came earlier in the meeting, but is here inserted in the minutes for the sake of organization.) Bill Weppner, chair of the faculty development and evaluation committee, reported on progress made by the committee creating the pilot for the new faculty evaluation instrument. Creating an equitable system, whereby chairs treat all their faculty equally and whereby all chairs use similar standards for their departments is a primary goal of the committee. This pilot program is only for faculty members who have volunteered to be part of it. The first year will be only a pilot program, with the idea that the senate will vote on whether to adopt the new system once the pilot is completed.

4. Old Business

- A. Tiffany Akin mentioned that the parking lot in front of the library at the Macon Cove campus still had many potholes. Bill Summons explained that repairing those potholes was not part of the same contract for the work that was done on the driveway in front of the Academic Building.

5. New Business

- A. Bill Summons noted that all our TBR sister institutions excepting Cleveland State Community College turned down an offer to begin outsourcing custodial services.
- B. Bill reported that TBR is working on an initiative to phase in a policy by which all textbooks used in system classrooms would be "ebooks."
- C. Bill relayed Sindy Abadie's request for a volunteer from the senate to serve on the student success council. MaLinda Wade volunteered.
- D. Bill noted his wish that we consider a senate resolution to the effect that there should be no fire drills conducted that are not announced to faculty members at the beginning of each semester. It was moved and seconded that such a resolution be written and sent to Chris Ezell. Matt Lexow volunteered to write the resolution. That resolution is appended to the minutes and will be sent to Chris Ezell.
- E. Joanitha Barnes brought up issues with faculty parking at the Union Ave. campus, especially concerning the lot on Myrtle Street, which was converted from a faculty lot to a lot for students, visitors, and faculty, wrongly to her thinking. Joanitha believes this lot needs to be converted back to faculty only. She noted, too, that the new parking garage is ineffective, especially if one parks at the top, where one is

forced to back out most of the way in order to exit. She believes, too, that campus police needs to enforce the parking rules we do have with more diligence. She wrote a memo to Chris Ezell outlining those concerns (and others) having to do with parking at the Union Ave. campus. That memo is appended to the minutes.

- F. Eddie Baker noted complaints about comments made on administrator evaluations, comments readable by all faculty members. In one particular case, comments about a dean mentioned names of faculty members under that dean – a situation that might create animosity. A brief discussion followed, but no resolution was achieved about whether comments about deans should be readable by faculty members. We decided to consider this question at more length and in more depth later. One senator suggested that in the future we might stagger administrator evaluations so that so many weren't due at the same time. Eddie, who administers the evaluation, will consider this.

- 6. The meeting was adjourned by Bill Summons at 5:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Branch, Faculty Senate Secretary

Proposal: Faculty Participation in Graduation

Dear President Hall:

First, the Faculty Senate of Southwest Tennessee Community College recognize that faculty members are “on call” during the academic year, and we affirm that it is within the authority of the president of the college to require attendance at certain college events, in accordance with TBR Policy 5:01:00:00, section III.G.

The faculty celebrate our students’ graduation and enjoy having our pictures taken with students and their families. We regard this as a great opportunity to socialize without being in a classroom atmosphere with tests, papers, speeches, or grades.

Given that it is occasionally necessary to move the date of graduation, and that students themselves are not required to attend the ceremony in order to graduate, we would like to see attendance by faculty at graduation be *encouraged* but not a *contractual obligation*. Rationale: it is far more fun and celebratory to attend an event such as graduation without feeling as though we need to make sure that our supervisors have seen us and will verify our presence at the event.

We have spoken at length with Dr. Ezell about the issue, and he suggested that another option would be as follows: to require a portion of the faculty (one-third or one-half) to be there each year on a rotating basis. If you were to choose this option, each faculty member would be guaranteed to participate every two or three years. We could always opt to be there more frequently. One way of doing this would be to separate the faculty into groups by division; another would be to separate the faculty into groups alphabetically.

Whatever should be the case, we appreciate the consideration that you would give to this matter.

Emergency Drill Resolution

Whereas, emergency drills at Southwest Tennessee Community College have been unannounced causing course disruptions; therefore

Be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate supports emergency drills being announced to all faculty (full-time and adjunct) on or before the beginning of each academic semester. The Faculty Senate urges the administration to work with campus security and faculty to consistently provide a clear schedule of all emergency drills administered at each campus and instructional site each semester.

To: Dr. Ezell, VPAA From: Barnes, Joanitha T. CC: Bill Summons, Faculty Senate
President; Doug Branch, Faculty Senate Secretary Date: 9/19/18 Re: Parking on Union
Avenue Campus

Comments: Based on the parking conditions at the Union Avenue Campus, I am
proposing the following:

- . 1) The parking lots located on Myrtle Street, the lot located behind the MLGW building (in gravel), and the smaller lot behind C building need to all be changed back to EMPLOYEE ONLY lots completely. Students do not need to park in these lots at all during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is completely disheartening to know that employees do not even have a designated place to park on such a small campus. I have parked all over campus, literally, from the garage to the far lot across from the Allied Health building, and all of the side streets in between, not by choice.
- . 2) Police Services should begin heavily enforcing parking violations when students park in these lots, after they have been designated Employee Only Lots.
- . 3) Police Services should have an officer with lights monitoring the entering of that street/lot to turn around the drivers who do not have an employee hang tag.
- . 4) I propose that the College make an attempt to “borrow” parking spaces from Office Depot. This may be done through an MOU or some other type of agreement, since we know employees and students park in that lot as well (even at the risk of being towed – and they do tow). Due to poor construction of the parking garage and its small size, there is still not enough spaces to alleviate parking concerns on Union Campus, Monday – Thursday, 7:45a – 4:30p.

Further, as it relates to the “handicap accessible door” on the south side of the Verties Sails Building on Union Avenue Campus. The door is NOT wheelchair accessible. The door is NEVER open from the outside and when I have had to park on the south side of campus rolling my crate, I have to trudge up the grassy knoll just to make it to the side walk or try to roll my crate up the steps to enter the gym. This has been a problem for

over 7 years and needs to be addressed.

Macon Cove Campus • Union Avenue Campus • Fayette Site • Gill Center • Millington Center • Southeast Center • Whitehaven Center

Southwest Tennessee Community College, a Tennessee Board of Regents institution, is an affirmative action/equal opportunity college.

