

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Conducted Via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

1. Call to order and roll

Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00. Doug Branch took the roll call.

William Summons (20-22) **President**

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (21-23) **Secretary**

Ed Reid (20-22)

Melissa Reyna (19-21)

Annie Sultana (20-22)

MaLinda Wade (21-23)

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Timothy Harrison (21-23)

Derrick Wheatley (20-22)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Shilpa Desai (20-22) **Treasurer**

Joyce Johnson (20-22) **Vice-President**

Rachel “Shelley” Trigg (21-23)

Department Senators

Megan Murphy (20-22) Allied Health

Kimberly Taylor (21-23) Business and Legal Studies

Tad Lauritzen Wright (21-23) Communications, Graphic and Fine Arts

Rosalyn McGhee (21-23) Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services Absent

Stewart White (20-22) Engineering Technologies

Emily Ford (21-23) Languages and Literature

Darrick Slaughter (20-22) Natural Sciences

Cetrea Jimerson (20-22) Nursing

Frank Daniels (21-23) Mathematics, **Parliamentarian** Absent

Latorya Parker (21-23) Technologies

Shannon Little (21-23) Social and Behavioral Sciences Absent

2. The Reading and Approval of the April, 2021 Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the April, 2021 faculty senate meeting.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

A. Joyce Johnson: Report on regular SEC meeting with Kendricks Hooker, VPAA and Sindy Abadie, Special Assistant to VPAA

Joyce noted several issues that were mentioned in that meeting:

The committee charged with rewriting policies concerning the conversion of term appointments to tenure track appointments submitted recommendations to TBR, which has pre-approved the document, with approval to happen after some wording changes are made.

Faculty, especially those planning to apply for promotion and tenure, are reminded to download old evaluations by October 1, when they will disappear from the current place they are housed, the DEIT website.

Enrollment numbers look very poor. Headcount is down 24% from Fall, 2019. This is causing financial difficulty for the college, with a budget deficit of about \$8M. We think that, with federal assistance, we can make it through this year, but next year might be an issue. The only real solution is an increase in enrollment. Because of financial constraints, 41 open positions mostly had to be frozen for hiring, although there have been a few unavoidable hires.

One strategy for enrollment increase will be, possibly, to offer more SWIFT term classes if incoming data suggests that they are working well. Another is to increase OER course offerings and doing more surveying of students to see what they want and need in terms of scheduling.

No decision has been made, but there is a possibility that, for the week after Thanksgiving, we may transition to an all-online platform.

We have no immediate plans to offer rapid COVID testing on a college-wide basis, but this may be a future possibility. We are also preparing for the Whitehaven campus' being a site for offering COVID booster inoculations.

B. Bill Weppner and Hannah Province: Report on the New Faculty Evaluation Tool

The new evaluation tool, piloted last year, is now considered for approval. The Faculty Development and Evaluation committee surveyed the faculty, 100% of whom preferred

the new tool to the old one. There were a few hesitations, such as concern about how the old system would have been helpful for people applying for promotion and tenure, but Hannah is assuring those concerned that the sessions she conducts with unpromoted and untenured faculty stresses the importance of saving relevant materials on a one-drive. She believes faculty are preparing themselves well for eventual promotion and tenure. (There will, however, be an opportunity to upload relevant material, should a faculty member wish to do so, in each of the areas for which a faculty member is evaluated.)

It was moved that the senate accept the FDEC's recommendation for the new instrument. The motion passed, with the understanding that a few changes be made, including a statement that faculty members not be required to upload documentation for action items accomplished.

It was noted as well that even fully promoted and tenured faculty must undergo the evaluation process each year. This contradicts an earlier policy saying that the fully promoted and tenured need go through the process only once every three years.

Bill Weppner, especially, was thanked by the senate for having worked on this new instrument for many years.

C. Michael Rounds: Report from the Grade Appeals Committee on New Procedures

Michael reported on many new modifications, many having to do with the names of college administrative positions that no longer exist. A major change had to do with a student having grounds for grade appeal if a professor did not meet classes in the modality for which the class was originally offered. Another had to do with the time frame in which student complaints must be filed, from six months to three months.

It was moved that the senate approve the changes to the policy, with minor wording changes, which Michael would make and offer to his committee for approval before resubmitting the document to the SEC, to whom the senate gave the power to make the final senate approval bypassing another vote of the entire senate.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

A. Bill Summons: Discussion of the Possible Formation of an *Ad Hoc* Committee about Academic Freedom in Online Environments

Bill reported that faculty members have complained that the Teaching Academy having too much power over content and presentation of online classes, one faculty member's classes even having been deleted, by the Teaching Academy, without informing the

faculty members. There is a sense that the Academy is setting standards that should be under faculty members' purview. The SEC had previously proposed the formation of an *ad hoc* committee to investigate and propose possible remedies for these problems.

It was moved and approved that Joyce Johnson be asked to form such a committee.

B. Doug Branch: Concern about Faculty Senate Committees

Doug expressed concerns that the senate seems to have several committees the current purposes for which are unclear. The membership of such committees are also unclear. No definite modifications were proposed, but Doug agreed to try to figure out, at least, the composition of as many committees as possible by contacting members of these committees. Doug's goal is to have the committees and membership of those committees published on the senate website.

- C. It was noted that the next faculty senate meeting would be on Tuesday, October 19, not Tuesday, October 12, which would have been the usual meeting date except for the fact that the college would be not holding classes that day because of fall break.

6. Adjournment

Bill Summons adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary

