

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Thursday, April 7, 2022, 3:00 PM
Bornblum Library, Macon Cove Campus

1. Call to order and roll

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

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

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

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

Ed Reid (20-22)

Melissa Reyna (21-23) **Parliamentarian**

Annie Sultana (20-22)

MaLinda Wade (21-23) (Absent)

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)

Craig Quinn (21-23) Emergency Medical Services

Stewart White (20-22) Engineering Technologies

Emily Ford (21-23) Languages and Literature

Darrick Slaughter (20-22) Natural Sciences

Cetrea Jimerson (20-22) Nursing (Absent)

Frank Daniels (21-23) Mathematics (No longer with the college)

Latorya Parker (21-23) Technologies (Absent)

Shannon Little (21-23) Social and Behavioral Sciences

2. The reading and approval of the minutes.

The body approved the minutes from the March, 2022 faculty senate meeting.

3. Special Guest, Dr. Tracy D. Hall, President

Dr. Hall provided the senate with updates on several issues concerning the faculty.

She began by noting her pleasure that one of our students, Mitchell Grimm, won a prestigious SOARS award.

Dr. Hall next discussed the budget and financial state of the college, which she characterized as strong in terms of viability and sustainability. She did note, however, that state allotments are down substantially because our enrollment is down by 30%. We thus have a 10.3 million dollar budget deficit. She expressed relief that federal funding related to the pandemic came in, and that this was extremely vital, as we did not need to touch our rainy day fund. Helpful, too, was a one-year extension of federal funds.

Cuts, though, will be necessary. The questions at hand must be “What works, and what doesn’t?” We will need to explore cutting programs that area employers aren’t asking for, really shifting a lot of attention to workforce development. We also need to improve marketing, especially for low-enrolled programs. The larger point is that we need to tell our story more effectively.

One bright spot seems to be Tennessee Reconnect, which focuses on adult students. This is a success on which we hope to expand. We will explore how to attract and retain more adult students, perhaps by looking at child care options in particular.

Dr. Hall emphasized that this focus on workforce development must not mean an end to humanities studies, as we wish for our students to be well-rounded individuals. Dr. Hall is cognizant of the dangers of “swinging” too far in the direction of workforce development if that means a devaluation of the humanities. But we might consider how to make some of our humanities classes more relevant for workforce development, too, such as offering, for instance, English classes that focus on writing for specific careers. The president did express concern that, at the state level, there is much talk about workforce development and that she is speaking up for the need for humanities studies and general education transfer credits and programs.

Another bright spot Dr. Hall mentioned was that we have begun hiring students as interns for some of our departments, such as Human Resources. This is at least partially in an attempt to help with student retention.

Dr. Hall opened the floor to questions.

One question concerned how the decisions are made concerning when we close campuses due to weather, for instance. Dr. Hall emphasized that we look to see what other schools in the area are doing, and that these decisions are made with some collaboration. We do, however, err on the side of safety if we must err.

Another question concerned whether we can ask students to turn on their cameras during TEAMS classes, as students whose cameras are not on often seem disengaged. Dr. Hall replied that the chancellor has asked that we not demand cameras to be on, but that we may encourage students to turn them on, especially if they use backdrops.

Dr. Hall ended by encouraging faculty to ask themselves, “How can we think differently?” This, she believes, is a difficult time for the college but one that provides ample opportunity for revitalization.

4. Reports from senate officers and senate committees

A. Kimberly Taylor, elections committee

Kimberly reported the results of the last faculty senate elections:

New senators from the Health and Natural Sciences Division: Shilpa Desai and Philippe Lubet.

New senators from Humanities, Social Sciences and Mathematics: Lake Newton and Annie Sultana.

New senator from Business and Technologies: Derrick Wheatley

New departmental senators: Sean Quinn, EMS; Lindsay Shaidnagle, Allied Health; Darrick Slaughter, Natural Sciences; Khalil Rassy, Mathematics; Stewart White, Engineering Technologies

B. Joyce Johnson: Report on regular SEC meeting with Kendricks Hooker, VPAA

Joyce noted that evaluations of administrators and supervisors to be made by faculty will arrive by email in mid-April .

We believe that March 13-March 17 will be the dates for the 2023 spring break.

The strategic plan is in order and will be disseminated shortly.

Dr. Hooker noted, at that meeting, that the bulk of the college’s budget deficit comes from Academic Affairs, but that all areas will need to make sacrifices. Dr. Hooker also stressed the college’s hope not to lay off personnel.

Sherria King has been named the new dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics, and the search for a new dean of Health and Natural Sciences is currently in its first round of interviews.

Dr. Hooker also mentioned that the college is looking at many spaces on various campuses that are currently underused. The college will be exploring the possibility of leasing some of these spaces in order to make money. Some such spaces, too, might need to be refitted to support new and emerging programs.

5. Old Business

A question emerged about when the report of the ad hoc committee exploring the role of the teaching academy would be made public. Joyce Johnson wishes to proofread the report once more before sending it to senators, who should then send it to faculty in their departments.

6. New Business

- A. Derrick Wheatley gave the report of a committee charged with recommending changes to the final exam schedule. The plan, starting in the fall, will be to replace the old system with a new one whereby faculty will give final exams during their regular class days and times. If 90 minutes is not enough for an exam in a 90 minute class, faculty may explore workarounds, such as giving part of an exam online or spreading it over two class periods.
- B. Bill Summons conducted elections for faculty senate officers.

The results of the elections are as follows:

Vice-President: Derrick Wheatley
Secretary: Doug Branch
Treasurer: Shilpa Desai
Parliamentarian: Melissa Reyna

The senate voted to approve the report.

- C. Joyce Johnson noted that a link through which senators may download service certificates should have arrived for both this and last year.
- D. Bill Summons, presiding over his last faculty senate meeting, movingly thanked the senate for their support and work over the years.

The senate voted to officially commend Bill Summons for his many years of dedicated service to the faculty senate.

7. Adjournment

Bill Summons adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary

