

Faculty Senate Position Paper for President

William (Bill) Summons

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I have been a faculty member of Shelby State/Southwest since 1977. I received an A.S. degree from a community college in Michigan and my Bachelors and Masters degrees from Michigan State University. I have also done additional graduate work at the University of Memphis. In my time here I have served on numerous department and college wide committees. Let me highlight a few. I served on the Faculty Senate, was Vice President in the 1980s, served on the merger team, and was a member of the Curriculum Committee and then chair of that committee after the merger.

I teach in the Mathematics Department and have taught at various locations including the Union Campus, old Gragg Center, Gill Campus, Southeast Center and finally at the Macon Cove Campus. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching and my students. Many times I had five preparations per semester and had to learn new courses to teach such as Computer Literacy. Serving at all these locations gives me a unique perspective on the college as a whole.

All through my tenure here I have been a vociferous proponent of faculty rights. Faculty should be treated as colleagues and partners with an equal say in the running of the college. This is especially true in these times of decreased financial support from the state. *Only faculty members know the true needs and desires of the student body.*

Communication is one of my major points of emphasis. Communication between the administration and faculty, faculty and administration, and the Senate and the faculty all are important. During my years as Faculty Senate President, I have tried to communicate the essence of what transpires at the TBR Faculty Subcouncil meetings to the faculty as well as sending out links to articles about higher education. I have also tried to convey the feelings and concerns of the faculty to the administration via face to face meetings and email. If reelected I will continue these dialogues.

The decision by Governor Haslam to appoint me as the Faculty Regent on the Tennessee Board of Regents is humbling. It has given me a chance to get to know those that govern higher education institutions in our state as well as a chance to voice your concerns to those in power.

We are experiencing interesting times in higher education in the state of Tennessee. The new Tennessee Reconnect initiative will be fully implemented in the fall of 2018. This requires renewed commitment on the part of the faculty and administration. Faculty are the drivers of

this initiative. Also if reelected I will continue the fight for adequate faculty pay both for full time faculty and for adjuncts. For full time faculty members pay increases should be in the form of across the board increases so that no faculty member is left out and left behind.

I invite all faculty members to get active and participate in meetings and committees that foster change and not just change for change sake but actual improvements.