

Faculty Senate Position Paper for President

William (Bill) Summons

March 2016

Since I last ran for Faculty Senate President there have been many changes at the college. The turnover of top administrators has been dramatic to say the least. Personally I feel like the changes have been for the good for the most part and many people now have a more positive expectation for the future. There is an atmosphere of openness and transparency that is a welcome change from the past. Your Faculty Senate played a big part in this. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this. I would love the opportunity to help continue the progress that has been made.

For those of you that do not know me well I have included below most of my last position paper.

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 and 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 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 three 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.

We are experiencing hard times in higher education in the state of Tennessee. The new funding formula is having an adverse effect on schools in west Tennessee especially. As more and more money is spent on health care less is available for other services. Enrollment declines in west Tennessee have not helped either. One of my goals is to make sure that the money we do have is spent in the most effective manner and that the faculty has a say in these decisions.

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.

Petition for

WILLIAM (BILL) SUMMONS

to run for Faculty Senate President

1. *Frank L. Soule*
2. *Lytia Lineberger*
3. *HOWARD*
4. *Pat Ward*
5. *Charles Bryant*
6. *Shantell Chism*
7. *Bill Turner*
8. *Michael Kelly*
9. *Natalie Hunden*
10. *NADINE BRADY*
11. *Stephen Bland*
12. *R. Montgomery*
13. *Sham Little*
14. *Mary Pratt*
15. *Samara McGe*
16. *Larry Allen*
17. *Penster Yaw*
18. *Marguerite Jackson Jones*
19. *Holly Green*
20. *Joni Murr*
21. *Susan Murphy*
22. *Mark Hayes*
23. *Joe [unclear]*
24. *Julie Fournier*
25. *Robert J. Walker*
26. *Gabriel [unclear]*
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.