

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Macon Campus
November 13, 2012

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Todd Blankenbeckler, president, called the meeting to order at 3:00. The following senators were present:

Doug Branch	Joanitha Barnes
Annie Sultana	Mahnaz Ghaffarian
Dewey Sykes	John Friedlander
Leslie Peebles	
Karen Pierce	
Donald Thomas	
Jason Whitt	

The following members sent proxies:

Joan McGrory
Margie Coltharp
Bill Turner

The following senators were absent:

Rosie Taylor
Nathan Knappler
Michael Scott
Ladonna Young

B. Reading of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended.

C. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees:

- Todd Blankenbeckler reported that changes for the A-19 Guidelines (Common Calendar) have been finalized and will be sent out shortly. It will be in effect for the 2014-15 calendar year.
- Todd reported that all Faculty Senate committees have met and have been given their charges. All the committees have chairs and secretaries, except two.

Grade Appeals Committee:

There was one issue from the Grade Appeals Committee regarding how grade appeals are to be handled in the summer. The recommendation is that any appeal commencing after the last official day of class in the Spring semester be handled at the start of the Fall semester. Donald Thomas will present a formal

recommendation at the next meeting for a vote. If approved, that recommendation will be forwarded to the Administration.

Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee:

The FDEC Committee is still in the process of streamlining procedures for faculty development. Concerns were raised about the established timelines, the amount of paperwork involved for out-of-town travel, and delays in getting signatures. Todd Blankenbeckler renewed his commitment to getting the Faculty Senate its own website so that documents and procedures can be centralized in one place.

D. Unfinished Business:

Todd Blankenbeckler proposed the following revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution:

Article VI – Section B:

The existing language states: “The Election Committee shall arrange for designated polling sites at each campus or teaching center, or administer the online voting process...” The recommendation is to delete “arrange for designated polling sites at each campus or teaching center, or.”

Article XII – Sections A – F:

The recommendation is to change the number of committee members on each committee to a range of 9 to 15 members.

Article XIII – Section B:

The existing language states: “Each academic department will submit to the President of the Faculty Senate the name of a tenured faculty member to serve in the pool for the selection of the seven-member committee.”

It was pointed out that divisions have always submitted two names for consideration. Also, now that there are no longer three divisions, how should the Promotion and Tenure Committee be constructed? Present practice is seven members and two alternates. However, there are no instructions on when an alternate may be called upon. Additionally, there are neither provisions nor guidelines for the Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee.

Todd Blankenbeckler also made the following proposals concerning the Faculty Senate Bylaws:

Article V under “Membership”:

The recommendation is to remove the language “First-year faculty members are not eligible to serve on Senate committees.”

Article V – Section A:

The recommendation is to remove the language “The Senate Executive Committee members cannot serve on other standing committees of the Senate.”

Article V – Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate:

Again, the recommendation is to set the membership of each committee to a range of 9 to 15 members.

Under the Academic Matters Committee:

The recommendation is to remove “academic advisement” as a charge and move that responsibility to the Faculty Advising Committee. In addition, it is recommended that the “staff member” designation be eliminated from the committee.

All changes were temporarily approved. Todd will make revisions for the next meeting to send to all faculty. The recommendations and revisions must be approved by two-thirds of the faculty in order to pass.

E. New Business:

- Selection of Promotion and Tenure Committee:

The following names were selected by random draw to serve on the 2012-13 Promotion and Tenure Committee:

Khalil Rassy – Mathematics
Rodney Whitaker – Languages and Literature
Sharon Livesay – Nursing
Sindy Abadie – Business and Legal Studies
Doug Branch – Languages and Literature
Patrick Foley – Communications, Graphics and Fine Arts

Alternates:

Melvin Tuggle – Social Behavioral Sciences
Dewey Sykes – Technologies

The following names were selected by random draw to serve on the 2012-13 Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee:

Bill Weppner – Mathematics
Melinda Wade – Social and Behavioral Sciences
Lisa Jones – Technologies
Gerald Foon – Allied Health
Judy Hatmaker – Natural Sciences
Thurston Shrader – Business and Legal Studies
Linda Pope – Dietetics

Alternates:

Michael Scott – Communications, Graphics and Fine Arts
Roma Magtoto – Nursing

- Todd Blankenbeckler presented the Senate with an email from Jim Bitter, Chair of the Faculty Sub-Council, regarding a resolution from UT on Same Sex Couple Benefits. The Senate is being asked to provide input into whether the Faculty Sub-Council should: 1) send a letter of support (or not) to the UT Faculty Senate in relation to their resolution, 2) develop their own resolution (or not) of this issue to forward to the Board of Regents for consideration, or, 3) remain neutral and take no stand either way.

Todd asked that Senators read over the resolution and seek input from their respective departments/divisions. Todd will forward a copy of the resolution to all faculty and ask that they let their representatives know their feelings. The Senate will vote on the matter at its next scheduled meeting.

- Joanitha Barnes brought up the subject of mandatory advising. Faculty would like to know the effectiveness of this move. There is an issue with Advising and Counseling issuing PINs to students without their advisors releasing them. Todd will keep a running list of things, and this matter will be addressed as an agenda item at the next Senate meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.