

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Union Ave. Campus
Faculty Lounge, F218
October 20, 2015

1. Call to Order and Roll

Faculty Senate President Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00.
Faculty Senate Secretary Doug Branch called the roll:

William Summons, **Senate President**

Division Senators, Arts and Sciences

Doug Branch (15-17) **Secretary**
Joyce Johnson (15-17)
Shannon Little (14-16) Proxy
Mahmuda Sultana (14-16)
Bill Turner (15-17) Proxy
MaLinda Wade (15-17)

Division Senators, Career Studies

Lisa Hadley (14-16)
Tim Harrison (14-16) **Parliamentarian**
Joan McGrory (15-17) **Treasurer**
Dewey Sykes (15-17) **Vice-President**

Department Senators

Michelle Hill (14-16) **Allied Health**
Mahnaz Ghaffarian (15-17) **Business**
Michael Scott (15-17) **Communications and Fine Arts** Proxy
David Huffman (15-17) **Languages and Literature**
Mathilda Doorley (14-16) **Natural Sciences**
Monique Cage (14-16) **Nursing** Absent
Shantell Chism (15-17) **Mathematics**
Leslie Peebles (15-17) **Technologies**
Ed Reid (15-17) **Social and Behavioral Sciences**

2. Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the September, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted to the Faculty Senate website.

3. Reports from Senate officers and Senate Committees

- A. Bill Summons reported on the issue surrounding TBR institutions' offering three-year contracts to faculty. Bill noted that when the Faculty Subcouncil originally accepted the proposal that such contracts be offered, it was meant to be for a limited number of departments at four-year institutions. Later, several college presidents decided that such contracts could and should be offered at two-year colleges as well. The decision to begin offering three-year contracts at two-year colleges was made without the Faculty Subcouncil's approval.

Several colleges are, indeed, now offering three-year contracts. The concern voiced by many faculty is that allowing two-year colleges to offer such contracts will result in fewer tenure-track contracts.

Bill also reported on new policies for attendance reporting at our college. These policies haven't been approved yet, but Bill suspects we will be returning to the policy by which faculty will be required to provide the last date of attendance (LDA) on the final grade roster for non-passing grades. Bill pointed out that it is possible the college hasn't been getting all the government reimbursements that should be ours.

- B. Doug Branch presented a draft of a proposed new constitutional by-law, to be adopted as by-law Article VI, section B. A motion was made and passed that we ask Dewey Sykes to conduct a faculty election before the November meeting, asking the faculty to vote to amend the Faculty Senate constitution such that Article XIII be removed from the constitution, contingent on Article's XIII, Section B's new language being added by the Senate to the by laws as by-law Article VI, Section B. For the present, Sections A and C of Article XIII would become, unchanged, Sections A and C of by-law Article VI. Additionally, Articles XIV and XV of the constitution would be renumbered.
- C. Chairman of the FDEC Bill Weppner summarized that committee's progress toward overhauling the promotion and tenure dossier process. For this year's promotion and tenure cycle, the committee will ask volunteers to prepare both digital and paper dossiers to "test the waters" and see how the digital system works. Assuming the test goes well, Bill believes we should be able ask all applicants to use the digital system by the next promotion and tenure cycle. Discussion followed, with many senators wondering why we need to put together dossiers at all, as they

consist mostly of information that can be found in annual faculty evaluations.

Bill also discussed the committee's thoughts about streamlining the yearly faculty evaluation process. The committee is favoring the idea of streamlining the system that is already in place rather than creating a new, more supervisor-driven system. The committee wishes for a reduction of materials faculty would be asked to upload. There should be much less documenting of activities. Bill added that a formal proposal will come soon.

Bill suggested that the faculty be surveyed, asked whether it would prefer a streamlined version of the current evaluation system or a supervisor-driven system, such as the committee had presented to the faculty on Faculty Development Day. The senate, however, voted that such a vote not be conducted and that, instead, the group hold off action until we see a more formal proposal in November.

4. New Business

- A. Mathilda Doorley presented a proposal from Doug Smith involving campus security. Doug's proposal would have had the senate send a letter to the President Hall in support of her announcement that, among other things, there should be more armed guards on our campuses. The senate discussed Doug's proposal but took no action.
- B. Dewey Sykes expressed concerns about the promotion and hiring promotion and hiring of department chairs. Dewey said he wished for the senate to ask the administration that new department chairs undergo formal training. Bill Summons opined that Dewey's resolution might be stronger if it were presented more formally. Dewey, Joan McGrory, Joyce Johnson, and Shannon Little will help draft that resolution to be presented at our next meeting.
- C. Bill Summons said he believes we need to have a larger discussion about student misconduct and the perception that we are having more problems in this area. He noted that the Faculty Welfare Committee is going to investigate this and that Lisa Loden will talk to us when her committee has written a report.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary

