

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Macon Cove Campus
MA C179
February 13, 2018

1. Call to Order and Roll

Faculty Senate vice-president Eddie Baker brought the meeting to order at 3:00. Secretary Doug Branch called the roll:

William Summons, **Senate President**, Absent

Division Senators, Arts and Sciences

Doug Branch (17-19) **Secretary**

Bill Hill (16-18)

Daniel Osborne (16 - 18)

Matthew Palotti (16-18)

MaLinda Wade (17-19)

Jerome Wilson (17-19) Absent

Division Senators, Career Studies

Charles (Eddie) Baker (16-18) **Vice-President**

Delores Boland (17-19) Proxy

Tim Harrison (16-18) **Parliamentarian** Proxy

Thomas Midgley (17-19) Absent

Department Senators

Shilpa Desai (16-18) **Allied Health** Proxy

Joanitha Barnes (17-19) **Business and Legal Studies, Treasurer**

Annette Fournet (17-19) **Communications and Fine Arts**

Tiffany Akin (17-19) **Languages and Literature**

Rosie Taylor (16-18) **Natural Sciences** Absent

Marilyn Wilbourn (16-18) **Nursing**

Frank Daniels (17-19) **Mathematics**

Leslie Peebles (17-19) **Technologies**

Ed Reid (17-19) **Social and Behavioral Sciences**

2. Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the November, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted to the website.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

- A. Dewey Sykes reported recommendations from the ad hoc committee charged with exploring possible irregularities in recent dean searches and hires. A lengthy discussion followed: three areas of particular concern were 1) with the membership of the committees, which the senate committee thought to be too administrator-heavy; 2) with who was defined as a voting member of the hiring committee, or not; 3) with the timing of the offers to dean candidates, before the hiring committee believed its work was complete.

- B. Eddie Baker reported on the February SEC meeting with Chris Ezell. Among the items discussed: complaints about the faculty's being given too little time to complete the last submissions of LDA's; enrollment's being up very slightly and that Southwest's headcount is now the second highest in the state, our FTE's the third highest; Dr. Ezell's thought that financial aid for students during the summer will probably be a reality this coming summer; Ezell's report that there are no plans to hire new associate deans in divisions that don't already have them; Ezell's report that there will be an attempt to hire a permanent chair of the Technologies Department; a new policy that chairs will be required to teach one class during regular hours plus, if they choose, one or two online or night overloads; Ezell's belief that a raise for faculty, from the state, is likely; Ezell's opinion that Southwest's Early College High School is currently being very well run; Ezell's working to find a resolution to faculty unhappiness about graduation being held after the May 15th end of contract date; Ezell's report that the hiring process for the new Director of Digital Learning is in its final stages, that the new Associate Vice-President of Workforce Development is about to be made, and that there would be a new position, Director of the Teaching Academy, to direct the Center of Teaching Excellence.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- A. A discussion ensued about general faculty unhappiness at administrative assumptions that 9-month faculty should be available after May 15, especially regarding graduation. Several remedies were discussed, including compensating faculty for attending graduation, giving faculty extra days at the beginning of the academic year to report to work, or not making graduation mandatory or perhaps only mandatory on a rotating basis.
- B. It was moved and passed that a committee be formed to make recommendations concerning both the scheduling of graduation this year and concerning general policies surrounding graduation. Joanitha Barnes will chair the committee, and Bill Hill, Frank Daniels, and Tiffany Akin will serve as members.
- C. Eddie Baker announced how the new alignment of division senators would work, considering the new organization of the college. There will be five senators in the Humanities division, two in Business and Technologies, and two in Nursing and Natural Sciences. A by-laws change will be necessary, and Eddie will propose that at our next meeting.
- D. It was moved and passed that a committee be formed to rewrite the by-laws for choosing the Promotion and Tenure committee and Promotion and Tenure Appeal Committee. Doug Branch will chair that committee, and MaLinda Wade and Bill Hill will serve.
- E. Joanitha Barnes gave the senate copies of a diversity statement created by her committee. She asked that senate members send her suggestions for any rewording.
- F. A discussion ensued about the complaint that many faculty have little idea what to do when copy machines break down or who is responsible for keeping them supplied with toner. There has been a lack of clarity in this regard. This is a problem on all campuses, particularly Union Avenue. Eddie and Doug agreed to bring this up with Dr. Ezell.
- G. A complaint was lodged about the IT help desk's asking for Social Security numbers in order to give assistance. A senator had complained to IT personnel about this and was told that this was the policy. Bill Hill agreed to ask to see if this really was the helpdesk policy and, if so, to ask to see it in writing.
- H. A motion was made and passed that we create a committee to work on establishing procedure recommendations for the hiring of administrators. Bill Hill will chair the committee, Tiffany Akin, Frank Daniels, and Dewey Sykes will serve.

6. Adjournment

Eddie Baker adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Branch, Faculty Senate Secretary

