

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Union Ave. Campus
F218
October 9, 2018

1. Call to Order and Roll

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

William Summons, **President** (18-20)

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (17-19) **Secretary**
Bill Hill (18-20) absent
Matthew Lexow (18-20)
MaLinda Wade (17-19) proxy
Candace Washington (17-19) absent

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Charles (Eddie) Baker (18-20) **Vice-President**
Thomas Midgley (17-19) absent

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Joyce Johnson (18-20)
Delores Thomas-Boland (17-19)

Department Senators

Shilpa Desai (18-20) **Allied Health**
Joanitha Barnes (17-19) **Business and Legal Studies, Treasurer**
Annette Fournet (17-19) **Communications and Fine Arts** absent
Tiffany Akin (17-19) **Languages and Literature** absent
Matthew Palotti (18-20) **Natural Sciences**
Marilyn Wilbourn (18-20) **Nursing**
Frank Daniels (17-19) **Mathematics, Parliamentarian**

Leslie Peeples (17-19) **Technologies** retired
Ed Reid (17-19) **Social and Behavioral Science**

2. Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the September, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted to the website. Doug noted that a replacement for Leslie Peeples in Technologies had yet to be named.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

- A. Bill Summons distributed the fire drill resolution requesting that fire drills should be announced to faculty members in advance. The intent of that resolution had been approved by the senate last month, and Matt Lexow had agreed to author the resolution, which was sent to Chris Ezell. Matt read the resolution. There has not yet been a response from Chris, but Bill thought it possible that Chris didn't realize that the standard procedure was for Chris to respond in writing. Bill agreed to inform Chris of this.
- B. Doug Branch read a proposed procedure, drafted by the senate committee asked to produce it, outlining a new system for choosing a pool for the promotion and tenure and promotion and tenure appeals committees. That new procedure would involve deans rather than chairs supplying names for the pool. Several senators suggested that the procedure needed to be amended to have specific alternates for the promotion and tenure committee and specific alternates for the appeals committee rather than just three general alternates, as Doug's committee had originally proposed. Doug agreed to change the language, and the senate will look at the procedure again at the November meeting after the original committee has a chance to review it. The general intent of the procedure, however, by which deans and not chairs would be asked to supply names for the committee pools, was approved by a senate vote.
- C. Frank Daniels showed the senate a proposal written by a committee he chaired concerning faculty participation in graduation. The idea was floated that instead of a formal resolution, perhaps it would be better for Bill to approach Chris Ezell with information that the senate backed a new system whereby half of the faculty would attend graduation one year, the other half the next year. It was moved, seconded, and passed that Bill be asked to discuss this with Chris, with the understanding that Bill would tell the senate Chris' general response next month.
- D. Bill Weppner discussed progress on the creation and implementation of the new faculty evaluation system and training sessions for the new instrument. Now, during this period of the pilot program for the

new instrument, is the time to make issues anybody has with that instrument known. A discussion ensued, too, about the need for the senate to give final approval to this instrument after the pilot period and before the new system goes into full effect.

- E. Bill Weppner also announced an optional Civil Rights Museum event for faculty members, to take place on January 7. This event would involve a tour of the museum, possible speakers, and lunch at Central Barbecue.

4. Old Business

- A. Joanitha Barnes shared with the senate a letter she sent to Chris Ezell about her concerns with there not being enough faculty parking at the Union Ave. campus. The senate encouraged Joanitha to continue pursuing this issue. The discussion of parking at Union Ave. morphed into a discussion of potholes in the parking lot in front of the library at the Macon Cove campus and issues with students parking in faculty spaces but not being ticketed. The SEC promised to relay these issues to Chris Ezell.

5. New Business

- A. Joanitha Barnes wished to discuss the case of an unnamed faculty member who, at the beginning of the semester, is believed to have missed at least a week of class for non-medical reasons. There was some question, too, about whether this faculty member had communicated his or her plans to be absent with students. Joanitha's concern is that excessive absences, besides creating problems with students in co-requisites, demonstrates problems with professionalism and leads to issues with faculty morale, especially if there is a sense that faculty members who miss excessive classes face no repercussions. A consensus emerged that, even if this is a concern many members of the senate share, it might be an issue beyond the senate's scope and the kind of issue that needs to be handled at the department and division level. It was mentioned, too, that it was possible there were repercussions, but that we might not know about them as those matters are not made public knowledge.

- 6. The meeting was adjourned by Bill Summons at 5:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Branch, Faculty Senate Secretary

