

Faculty Senate Minutes

Southwest Tennessee Community College

Conducted Via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 3 PM

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 (18-20) President

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (19-21) **Secretary**

Annie Sultana (18-20)

Holly Green (18-20)

Thomas King (19-21)

Melissa Reyna (19-21)

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Tim Harrison (18-20) Absent

Kimberly Taylor (19-21)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Joyce Johnson (18-20) **Treasurer**

Delores Thomas-Boland (19-21)

Department Senators

Shilpa Desai (18-20) **Allied Health**

Vicki Armstrong (19-21) **Business and Legal Studies**

Annette Fournet (19-21) **Communications and Fine Arts**

Julie Fournier (19-21) **Languages and Literature**

Matthew Palotti (18-20) Natural Sciences, Vice-President
Marilyn Wilbourn (18-20) Nursing
Frank Daniels (19-21) Mathematics, Parliamentarian
Stewart White (19-21) Technologies
Darcy Sims (19-21) Social and Behavioral Science Absent

Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the February, 2020 faculty senate meeting. There were no minutes from a March 2020 meeting, that having been cancelled due to the closing of the college because of Covid-19.

Special Guest: Michael Boyd, Chief Information Officer, Information Systems

- A. Michael reminded us that TAF (Technology Access Fee) applications are still being accepted for projects having to do with technology. He mentioned that the process might be slowed down due to the coronavirus.
- B. As classes mostly go remote due to the coronavirus, Michael said he needs to know what faculty members do not have access to wifi or needed devices. He also offered to instruct faculty on how to use the M-drive, if they need instruction. He suggested, too, that faculty not rely on “remote desktop.” He reminded us as well that live technical support is available.
- C. Several senators spoke of their preference for Zoom over Microsoft TEAMS for distance learning due to the coronavirus. Michael noted his sense that using just one college-sanctioned platform is much more efficient, but he encouraged faculty to send their concerns to him so that he could communicate with Microsoft about product improvement.

Reports from senate officers and senate committees

- A. Matthew Palotti: Report on ad hoc committee about the conversion of term faculty and/or positions to tenure track faculty and/or positions. Matt reported that the committee work was still ongoing, having been slowed down because of Covid-19.
- B. Bill Summons: Report on regular monthly SEC meeting with VPAA and Sindy Abadie. Bill noted that Dr. Kendrick Hooker, the new VPAA, is in contact with him, even though Hooker doesn't officially begin in a full-time capacity until June. Dr. Hooker is currently dealing with questions of the college's going online. Bill also announced the determination of the VPAA's office that all classes would be online only during the summer and that most regular classes would be hybrid in Fall 2020.
- C. A discussion ensued about test integrity, a matter of concern to many senators. Bill expressed his opinion that something, like Honor Lock, must be made available to

- faculty; he noted that he had not yet learned that it would be available for upcoming final exams.
- D. Bill announced that a leadership survey, allowing faculty to evaluate the leadership of members of the administration, would be forthcoming, but that it would, due to privacy concerns, be promulgated by the administration rather than the faculty senate, as it had been in the past.
 - E. Matthew Palotti, following up on Bill's report from the SEC meeting, noted that all summer classes would require a master copy that had been approved by Distance Education. Such approval would similarly be needed for all Fall 2020 classes.
 - F. Thomas King, chair of the faculty awards committee, noted that he has received Farris Award nominations but that nominations for other awards were few. He asked everybody to strongly encourage nominations. He planned to go ahead with 2019-2020 awards, even with the uncertainty brought about by Covid-19.
 - G. Matthew Palotti: Senate election results. Matthew announced the new senators, elected to serve two-year terms beginning during Fall 2020. They are as follows:

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences and Mathematics

Annie Sultana, re-elected
Ed Reid, replacing Holly Green

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Derrick Wheatley, replacing Tim Harrison

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Joyce Johnson, re-elected
Shilpa Desai (Division picked up a third seat, based on faculty numbers)

Allied Health

Megan Murphy, replacing Shilpa Desai

Natural Sciences

Derrick Slaughter, replacing Matthew Palotti

Nursing

Cetrea Jimerson, replacing Marilyn Wilbourn

Matthew and the rest of the senate congratulated those new senators who were present, and Matthew promised to make and distribute certificates of participation by the next fall meeting.

- H. Matthew next conducted the SEC elections for 2020-2021. Newly elected officers are as follows: Joyce Johnson, vice-president; Doug Branch, secretary; Shilpa Desai, treasurer; Frank Daniels, parliamentarian.

Old Business

New Business

- A. Thomas King reminded the senate that TBR is considering changing the Learning Management System for online and hybrid classes. Companies making their sales pitches and discussions of the merits of different systems had been recorded and are still available for viewing through PAWS.
- B. Toward the end of the meeting, a general discussion ensued surrounding faculty concerns about test proctoring and plagiarism during upcoming final exams and the fall semester. A general fear emerged that, with so many of our classes going online, the integrity of our classes was at stake. Hopes were expressed that the administration would take necessary steps to procure funding to help eliminate risks to the integrity of our courses brought about by student cheating.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary