

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Conducted Via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 3:00 PM

1. Call to order and roll

Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00. Doug Branch took the roll call.

William Summons (20-22) **President**

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (21-23) **Secretary**

Ed Reid (20-22)

Melissa Reyna (19-21)

Annie Sultana (20-22)

MaLinda Wade (21-23)

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Timothy Harrison (21-23)

Derrick Wheatley (20-22)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Shilpa Desai (20-22) **Treasurer**

Joyce Johnson (20-22) **Vice-President**

Rachel “Shelley” Trigg (21-23)

Department Senators

Megan Murphy (20-22) Allied Health

Kimberly Taylor (21-23) Business and Legal Studies Absent

Tad Lauritzen Wright (21-23) Communications, Graphic and Fine Arts

Rosalyn McGhee (21-23) Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services Absent

Stewart White (20-22) Engineering Technologies

Emily Ford (21-23) Languages and Literature

Darrick Slaughter (20-22) Natural Sciences Absent

Cetrea Jimerson (20-22) Nursing

Frank Daniels (21-23) Mathematics, **Parliamentarian**

Latorya Parker (21-23) Technologies

Shannon Little (21-23) Social and Behavioral Sciences

2. The Reading and Approval of the September, 2021 Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the April, 2021 faculty senate meeting.

3. Special Guest: David Rosenthal, Deputy CIO, Information Systems

The senate was pleased to welcome David, who offered to make us aware of changes in information systems and to answer any questions we might have.

He updated us on the Digital Twin platform, a new distance learning teaching platform allowing students in the classroom and students plugging in from elsewhere to collaborate. This allows an in-class experience for students who wish to be in class and also for students who do not wish to or cannot participate in an in-person class. Lectures and discussions are streamed in real time. As of now, twelve classrooms are equipped with the technology, but as of January 1, we hope to have this capability in forty-six rooms across six campuses and centers. Faculty training for the Digital Twin platform is available in the Bridge system.

David noted that much equipment in the classroom computer labs needs replacing. There was no replacing done during the pandemic year, but the department is currently refreshing equipment. Faculty who have questions or who see a lab that in which the computer is particularly faulty should contact Mike Jones, at majones@southwest.tn.edu.

David also asked that we spread the word that when departments hire new faculty, IT would appreciate being told that a new faculty member is coming so that full access can be set up quickly. This is important for adjunct faculty members but especially so for new full-timers.

David said he was happy to answer any questions:

About the new webmaster: the new title isn't "webmaster," but now "web content specialist." Her name is Krissy Williams.

About whether Digital Twin is a new modality, with new registration codes and such, so that students know they are registering for a Digital Twin course: yes. The idea is that students will have flexibility and can attend class either "face to face" or remotely.

About proctoring for exams with Digital Twin: the platform doesn't necessarily address it. It's a delivery mode, not a proctoring solution.

About worries that students would simply stop coming to class: one faculty member who has done taught in the Digital Twin had a good experience, even though many of his students chose to attend via distance. (This faculty member requires students to show up in person for tests.)

4. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

A. Joyce Johnson: Report on regular SEC meeting with Kendricks Hooker, VPAA and Cindy Abadie, Special Assistant to VPAA

Joyce noted several issues that were mentioned in that meeting:

Cynthia Graham, VP of External Relations, attended the meeting briefly to report a \$50,000 grant for faculty and staff for employees who have experienced financial hardship. These grants will be for \$500.00. The application process and limitations will be announced at a later time.

Commencement will be at the Liberty Bowl again this year on May 21, with May 22 as a rain date. It was not possible to get a day prior to May 15, when faculty contracts end, but Dr. Hooker did hope that faculty would participate in the exercises.

There have been no significant budget changes, and the college is still restricting travel, supplies, and hiring.

Enrollment is still low, with FTE's down 7% from Fall 2020 and 30% from Fall 2019.

Classes taught during Winter 1 and Winter 2 sessions do count toward faculty loads.

A new policy from TBR requires that students maintain a 2.0 GPA from original enrollment until graduation. The details will be forthcoming, but Dr. Hooker is concerned that the new policy may have an adverse effect on our retention rates.

B. Doug Branch: Discussion Concerning Senate Committees

Doug pointed out that it is unclear what the faculty advising committee is doing now that faculty do not have the same kinds of advising responsibilities they had in the past. Doug asked if we should disband it or change its charge.

Thomas King suggested changing it to a mentoring committee, a committee to organize the pairing of seasoned faculty members with new hires. There was a general sense that this would be a good idea, and the senate asked Thomas and Joyce Johnson (the chair of the faculty advising committee) to write a proposal to this effect.

5. Old Business

Joyce Johnson reported that she had begun forming an ad hoc committee to investigate complaints that the teaching academy has been interfering too much into course

development, especially in online and hybrid courses, and to make recommendations for reform.

A discussion followed. One point of contention has been the plan by Distance Education to pay course developers based on how much of the material in their courses is original and how much from publishers. It was noted that this is problematic, as some disciplines better lend themselves to the use of a good deal of publisher material than others. The other problem is a feeling, among some faculty, that the teaching academy seems to create policies without sufficient faculty input. There is a sense, too, that faculty chairs and the departmental evaluation process, rather than the teaching academy, should be making decisions about which courses need work before being offered to students.

6. New Business

Senate parliamentarian Frank Daniels announced that he would be leaving the college next semester and that the senate would need a new parliamentarian. Frank expressed his pleasure in having worked with us. Many expressions of regret from senators followed Frank's announcement.

7. Adjournment

Bill Summons adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary

