Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 3:00 PM
Macon Cove Campus, MAC 195

1. Call to order and roll

   Joyce Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00. Doug Branch took the roll.

Joyce Johnson (24-26) **President**

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (23-25) **Secretary**
Thomas King (23-25) **Vice-President**
Julie Lester (23-25) (absent)
Lake Newton (24-26)
Annie Sultana (24-26) **Treasurer**

Division Senators, Business and Technologies
Dennis Powers (23-25)
Gary Holder (24-26) (absent)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Carlito Chiong (23-25)
Carolyn Jensen (24-26)
Gerren Herndon (24-26) (absent)

Department Senators
Lindsey Shaidnagle (24-26) Allied Health (absent)
Arnetria Taylor (23-25) Business and Legal Studies (absent)
Tad Lauritzen Wright (23-25) Communications, Graphic and Fine Arts (absent)
Shelley Trigg (24-26) EMS
Melanie Jones (24-26) Computer Information Technology
Emily Ford (23-25) Languages and Literature **Parliamentarian**
Gayathri Kaushik (24-26) Natural Sciences
Kristi Griffin (24-26) Nursing
Khalil Rassy (24-26) Mathematics
Shannon Little (23-25) Social and Behavioral Sciences (absent)

2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the March 2025 faculty senate meeting with minor corrections

3. Reports from senate officers and senate committees

A. Thomas King: Report on regular SEC meeting with VPAA Carol Ash

That regular meeting did not take place because Dr. Ash was not available. The SEC did meet, though, and set the agenda for the April meeting.

B. Thomas King: Elections Committee

Tekay reported that elections for department senators for 2025-2027 were complete. Department senators elected or re-elected to begin their terms in September, will be as follows:

Armetria Taylor, Business and Legal Studies

Tad Lauritzen Wright, Communications, Graphic and Fine Arts

Baxter Buck, Languages and Literature

LePetria Rhoe, Social and Behavioral Sciences

As of the April meeting, new division senators had not yet been elected because there was an insufficient slate of candidates in several divisions. (Update: two of those elections have been held in the meantime.)

Newly elected or re-elected senators for Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics will be Thomas King, David Huffman, and Doug Branch

The newly elected senator for Business and Technologies will be Salahuddin Mohammad Masum.

There remains an opening in the Division of Health and Natural Sciences.

C. Joyce Johnson: Constitution Committee Report, Updates

There are some proposed changes to the constitution which Joyce plans on sending to all senators so that we can vote on them before the terms ends. There will be proposed changes to the by-laws as well that we can vote on in the fall.

D. LePetria Rhoe: Faculty Welfare Committee Report

LePetria reminded the senate of the committee's charge, to advocate for faculty matters

that impact our work environment. She has confirmed the committee's membership, and the group had a meeting recently, where they decided to meet quarterly henceforth. LePetria asked senators to ask the faculty to write to email her with concerns, issues, and ideas.

There ensued a short discussion about the faculty lounge at Union Avenue, which isn't currently in suitable shape for use. It was agree that the faculty welfare committee would look into this. There was also a discussion, that the committee would continue, about how the college might better recognize retiring full-time faculty.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

   A. Joyce Johnson: Discussion about Convocation and Faculty Development Day

      Convocation is tentatively set for Monday, August 18, with the 19th being set aside for faculty development day. Joyce encouraged senators to ask their departments for ideas about presentations, seminars, or topics faculty would like to see addressed on faculty development day.

6. Adjournment

Joyce Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary