

DRAFT
Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Macon Cove Campus
September 10, 2013

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Bill Summons, president, called the meeting to order at 3:00. The following senators were present or sent proxies:

Division Senators, Arts and Sciences

Doug Branch
Karen Pierce
Mahmuda Sultana
Bill Turner, Treasurer

Division Senators Career Studies

Joanitha Barnes (proxy)
Delores Boland, Parliamentarian
Joan McGrory, Vice President
Dewey Sykes

Department

Willie Burley, Technologies
Yen-keung Chou, Mathematics
Mahnaz Ghaffarian, Business
Robert Walker, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Absent

Rosie Taylor, Div. Arts and Sciences
Michelle Hill, Allied Health
Nathan Knappier, Nursing
Michael Scott, Communications and Fine Arts
Donald Thomas, Natural Science

Non-Members

Jerome Wilson
David Huffman

2. Welcome

President Bill Summons noted his appreciation to the faculty for having elected him Senate president. Members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves as well.

3. Election

A special election was held for secretary as the former secretary, Leslie Peeples, was unable to continue her term due to illness. Doug Branch was elected.

4. Reading of the Minutes

No minutes from the previous meeting in April were read. Those minutes were unavailable due to the previous secretary's illness. It was decided that we would try to find those minutes somehow, possibly by conferring with the previous president, Todd Blankenbeckler.

5. Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook Committee

David Huffman reported that the *Faulty Handbook 2012-2015* would soon be uploaded to the website, where it could be easily viewed. At this point, it needs cosmetic tinkering, but the substance is mostly accurate. The edits will be made soon. David noted several other changes that would need to be made as well, mostly information about faculty rank and faculty responsibilities.

It was moved and seconded that we accept the report of the Faculty Handbook Committee. Motion passed. (We have not accepted the *Faculty Handbook*, not having read it yet in its finished form. The Senate simply accepted the committee report.)

Faculty Advising Committee

Delores Boland presented the *Faculty Advising Handbook 2013-2015* and asked that we approve the report of the committee. She noted that there would be cosmetic changes, including corrections to the Table of Contents.

It was moved and seconded that we accept the report of the Faculty Handbook Committee. Motion passed. (Again, it was the report that we accepted, as opposed to the *Handbook* itself.)

6. Other Business Concerning the Makeup of the Senate

A problem was discussed: with no minutes from April, we don't have a clear idea of exactly who is on the Senate and what the terms are. Doug Branch has been asked to consult with people who might have insight such as Jason Whitt, Todd Blankenbeckler, and department chairs, in order to prepare an accurate list of the senators and their terms.

7. Unfinished Business

Bill Summons distributed copies of the latest proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate constitution and by-laws. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we accept the by-laws as amended.

It was moved and seconded, and approved that we accept the constitution as amended. This document will be presented to the faculty for a vote. Bill will send a copy of the proposed amendments to the faculty, and Joan McGrory will conduct the election. (All faculty must ratify the constitution; only the Senate is needed to ratify by-laws.)

8. Date and Time for Next Meeting

We agreed that the next meeting of the Faculty Senate should be Tuesday, Oct. 8, 3:00, Union Ave. Campus, Faculty Lounge. Second Tuesdays of each month are looking like good times for meetings.

9. New Business

A. Jerome Wilson, advisor of the college's literary club, Pierian, and editor of the literary journal, *Hieroglyph*, wished to address his concern about an incident that occurred last spring. The bookstore refused to stock and sell a book written by a guest author, Eric Jerome Dickey, citing a notion that the book and the book cover were obscene. Dickey was to have read for students and faculty, an event sponsored by Pierian. Knowing that his book would not be sold, Dickey decided not to hold the reading. Burke's Books offered to sell the book, but the bookstore refused to allow them to do so.

Jerome has complained to his chair, and the dean. That complaint has been forwarded to the associate vice-president for academic affairs.

The Senate asked Jerome to keep the Senate apprised of the administration's response. We informally agreed to consider taking action if the administrative response was unacceptable.

B. Dewey Sykes voiced concern about faculty with nine-month contracts seeming as if they're being asked to work nearly all year long. He is concerned that there is unspoken pressure for faculty to work during "distress calls," and that these calls seem hard to resist, particularly for untenured or non-tenure track faculty. He argued that the college shouldn't expect nine-month faculty to solve its personnel problems.

A lengthy discussion ensued, Dewey's ideas supported by many.

Bill Summons agreed to ask the administration about their goals for what percentage of our faculty should be on tenure track. The general consensus

is that with fewer tenure track faculty, situations such as Dewey described may become even more prevalent.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary