

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Union Ave., Faculty Lounge F 218
November 11, 2014

1. Call to Order and Roll

Faculty Senate President Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00.
Faculty Senate Secretary Doug Branch called the roll, which follows:

William Summons, **Senate President**

Division Senators, Arts and Sciences

Doug Branch, **Secretary** (13-15)
Shannon Little (14-16)(proxy)
Karen Pierce (13-15)(absent)
Mahmuda Sultana (14-16)(absent)
Bill Turner, **Treasurer** (13-15)

Division Senators, Career Studies

Lisa Hadley (14-16)
Tim Harrison, **Parliamentarian** (14-16)
Joan McGrory (absent) (13-15)
Dewey Sykes, **Vice-President** (13-15)

Department Senators

Michelle Hill (12-14) **Allied Health**
Mahnaz Ghaffarian (13-15) **Business**
Michael Scott (13-15) **Communications and Fine Arts** (absent)
David Huffman (13-15) **Languages and Literature**
Mathilda Doorley (14-16) **Natural Science**
Monique Cage (14-16) **Nursing** (absent)
Hannah Province (13-15) **Mathematics** (absent)
Leslie Peeples (13-15) **Technologies**
Robert Walker (13-15) **Social and Behavioral Sciences** (absent)

2. Approval of Minutes

It was approved that we accept the minutes from the October, 2014 faculty senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted on the faculty senate website.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

- A. Bill Summons, senate president, reported that Tristan Denley, TBR vice chancellor for academic affairs, would be visiting Southwest on Tuesday, January 20 to speak with students and with faculty. One major topic of conversation would be the TBR's push for co-curricular Learning Support classes. Dewey Sykes was asked to help with the arrangements for Denley's visit.
- B. Bill reported, too, that there had been a recent faculty senate no-confidence vote at Chattanooga State, against that institution's president.
- C. Bill reported as well that Todd Blankenbeckler, TAF Director, had given him a list of criteria and rules that should be followed by faculty teaching online classes. Bill expressed his concern that these rules are not always being followed.
- D. Bill reported that Barbara Roseborough, interim provost, has been a strong advocate of block scheduling for all incoming freshmen, and that she wishes to implement that policy by the beginning of Fall 2015.
- E. Last, Bill announced the creation of an administrative summer school task force, tasked with exploring ways to increase summer school enrollment, to be chaired by Tamara McColgan. This task force has already suggested removing the requirement that students must be advised before registering for summer school classes, a suggestion that has been approved. Bill suggested that the senate form an ad hoc committee to advise Tamara's committee. This ad hoc committee should consider summer school policies, such as how many classes might be taught at the 1/32 pay rate, how many students should be required for a course to make, and other issues. He will send an email asking for volunteers to serve. Lisa Hadley volunteered to serve.
- F. Dewey Sykes, who chaired the committee that created and conducted the evaluations of administrators, reported that the recent evaluations were a success. He thanked all who participated. The senate passed a resolution to thank Dewey and his committee for a job well done.
- G. Megan Murphy, reported from the Faculty Welfare Committee. The committee is disturbed that a large number of faculty and staff parking spaces at Union the Union Avenue campus have been lost. A copy of that committee's report is appended to these minutes. The senate suggested that the committee should speak to people, including the president, who would have the power to address these concerns, which the senate shares.

4. New Business

- A. Dewey Sykes spoke for Garry Spencer, who had a suggestion for a new slogan for the school: "Southwest: the Right Direction for Your Career. Although the senate appreciated Garry's interest and efforts, the suggestion itself was received with little show of enthusiasm.

- B. The senate chose names for the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee, and the alternates for each, as required by the senate constitution. Secretary Doug Branch was asked to send the names to the provost as soon as possible. The names chosen for the Promotion and Tenure committee were as follows: Bill Weppner, MaLinda Wade, Amy Waddell, Rose Cummings, Jane Harris, Manahz Ghaffarian, Charles Pender. Those to serve as alternates are Annie Sultana, Cynthia Abadie, and Carolyn Coward. The names chosen for the Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee were as follows: Roma Magtoto, Robert Tom, Mickey Beloate, Mathilda Doorley, Megan Murphy, Edward Reid, and Rodney Whitaker. The alternates for that committee are Clemetee Whaley, Jason Jennings, and Gerald Foon.

5. Adjournment

Bill Summons adjourned the meeting at 4:20.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary

Parking Issue

History

Returning for the 2014 spring semester last January, faculty/staff were surprised to see the parking lot adjacent to the ABC/M/Parrish buildings at Union had been restriped. Not only was the paint brightened up, but there were significantly fewer spaces with red stripes, indicating parking only for faculty/staff, having been replaced with spaces with white stripes, indicating faculty/staff /student parking. At first, some thought there might be some mistake, but through the grapevine word came down that this was done deliberately, not in error.

Faculty/staff members received no memo, email or announcement of any kind addressing this change.

Numbers

Type of Space	# Spaces	% Total Spaces
Reserved	14*	10.2%
Handicapped	13	9.4%
Faculty/Staff	59	43%
Student/Staff/Faculty	51	37.2%
Total Spaces	137	

*1 President, 1 VP Student Services & Enrollment Management, 1 Provost, 1 Executive Director of Human Resources, 3 Senior Staff, 1 Director of Public Safety, 1 Police Services, 1 Dean of Academic Affairs, 1 Daycare Director, 1 Mail Services, 2 State Vehicle parking

Faculty/staff members also used to be able to park in an area at the very back of building C, sometimes used by contractors, but when no contractors were working, these spaces were available. In the past year, these 15 spaces have been largely unavailable, due to various work projects that are apparently ongoing.

Counting these 15 spaces, faculty/staff members have lost 66 places where once they could park. This parking lot is the primary lot at Union, serving buildings A, B, C, D, E, F, M and Parrish. If space is not available in this lot, the other options are across Linden Avenue in the lot adjacent to the Allied Health building, or across Walnut Street, in the parking area primarily used as student parking. It is well known among the members of faculty/staff that if one arrives at the Union campus after 8:00 a.m., one is unlikely to be able to park in this primary parking lot. Many faculty members, and some staff member as well, have classes or duties at another campus, making their arrival time at Union later in the morning.

Parking in the areas across Linden or Walnut means a longer walk to a class or office for members of faculty and staff. Faculty members often are carrying books, papers or other paraphernalia needed for classes they are teaching.

Issues

Parking at the Union Avenue campus has been a thorny issue for a very long time. There have never been enough spaces to accommodate the needs of the faculty and staff, as well as the students. Many students complain about having to park a distance away, and some report they try not to schedule classes at the Union campus because of the parking situation.

Every employee at Southwest Tennessee Community College is well aware of the importance of student retention, and perhaps this addition of spaces for students to park closer to the main campus building was part of addressing student concerns connecting to retention. Every faculty and staff member understands how important the students are to Southwest. They drive what we do. No one discounts this. However, to take away 51 parking spots (37% of the total 137 spots available) previously allocated only for faculty and staff members, with no notice or communication seems disrespectful. Because of so many changes occurring over the past several years, every employee at Southwest must now work harder than ever before, with little tangible reward. Dr. Essex has many times allowed that salaries are very low, but presently there seems no ability to change that. To take away 37% of the allocated parking for faculty and staff members at the Union campus seems to add yet another burden.

Compromise?

The Faculty Welfare committee discussed this issue at length, and acknowledged that perhaps faculty/staff and students could be content with some compromise. The parking lot at the Union campus has an L-shaped section where most of the spaces are, then an adjunct section behind the MLGW building, which lies parallel to the railroad tracks. If the L-shaped section of the parking lot could be partially restriped again, adding 23 red-lined spaces for parking by only faculty or staff members, this would leave the 28 spaces in this adjunct section to be able to be parked in by students. Also, when the projects are finished that are currently disallowing anyone to park in the fenced in area behind the C building, those 15 spaces could also be for anyone to park in, including students.

This would address the students' concern that there are no close parking spaces for them, but leave a few more spaces in which faculty and staff members could park.