

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Macon Cove Campus, MA B 149
February 10, 2015

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)
Karen Pierce (13-15)(proxy)
Mahmuda Sultana (14-16)
Bill Turner, **Treasurer** (13-15)

Division Senators, Career Studies

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

Department Senators

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

2. Approval of Minutes

It was approved that we accept the minutes from the November, 2014 faculty senate meeting, with a minor correction. 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 a recent visit to Southwest by Tristan Denley, TBR Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, was successful, with about a quarter of the faculty present. Denley spoke with students and with faculty; a major topic of conversation was TBR's push for co-curricular Learning Support classes.
- B. Bill reported, too, that a recent faculty chat session with the President Essex was successful.
- C. Bill Weppner, chair of the FDEC, or Faculty Development Committee, and Hannah Province, a member of that committee, presented a working draft of that committee's recommendations for a new faculty evaluation instrument. A lengthy discussion ensued, during which senators made various recommendations for possible changes to the proposed instrument. Robert Walker hoped that the committee would pay special attention to what he saw as the problem that, as the instrument is currently implemented, if a faculty member is evaluated as "unsatisfactory" on just one of the assumed responsibilities, the faculty member's overall performance is judged unsatisfactory.

It was generally agreed that the FDEC was at an excellent starting point with this project. Bill Weppner noted that there are seats on the FDEC for faculty interested in serving.

- D. Mathilda Doorley, chair of the Faculty Awards Committee, expressed her desire to have help on that committee, as she is presently the sole member. She also asked the senate to consider why every faculty award required outside evaluators. Mathilda wondered whether retired faculty might serve as evaluators for awards. The senate concurred that retired faculty could indeed serve in that capacity for most awards, but we were unsure whether the Farris Award's benefactors had stipulated outside evaluation. Mathilda agreed to research that question.
- E. Senate Vice-President Dewey Sykes noted that he would be conducting elections for new senators in March.

4. New Business

- A. Bill Summons distributed Dr. Essex and the administration's response to recent Summer School Task Force recommendations. Bill expressed overall pleasure with that response. Two items that seem especially positive, from a faculty point of view, are that the response indicated no percentages for how many summer school classes should be taught by

adjunct faculty, and that there was a reduction in the minimum class size for a class to “make.”

- B. Bill suggested we need to update the Senate Constitution concerning the makeup and selection of the Promotion and Tenure Committee. An ad hoc committee, consisting of Doug Branch and Tim Harrison, was appointed and asked to suggest new wording to present to the senate at its next meeting.
- C. It was generally noted that because of spring break, we would need to move our March meeting to the third Tuesday rather than the second.
- D. Bill Summons brought to the senate’s attention a letter he had received from the Faculty Council at Jackson State Community College. In the letter, the Jackson State body expressed its disapproval of the TBR plan to begin offering three-year, temporary rolling contracts to new faculty members.

5. Adjournment

Bill Summons adjourned the meeting at 4:50.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Branch
Faculty Senate Secretary

