

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Union Ave. Campus
Faculty Lounge F 218
October 10, 2017

1. Call to Order and Roll
- A. Faculty Senate president Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00. Secretary Doug Branch called the roll:

William Summons, **Senate President**

Division Senators, Arts and Sciences

Doug Branch (17-19) **Secretary**
Bill Hill (16-18)
Daniel Osborne (16 – 18)
Mahmuda Sultana (16-18) (No longer eligible to serve)
MaLinda Wade (17-19)
Jerome Wilson (17-19) Absent

Division Senators, Career Studies

Charles (Eddie) Baker (16-18) **Vice-President**
Delores Boland (17-19)
Tim Harrison (16-18) **Parliamentarian**
Thomas Midgley (17-19) Absent

Department Senators

Shilpa Desai (16-18) **Allied Health**
Joanitha Barnes (17-19) **Business and Legal Studies, Treasurer**
Annette Fournet (17-19) **Communications and Fine Arts**
Tiffany Akin (17-19) **Languages and Literature**
Rosie Taylor (16-18) **Natural Sciences**
Marilyn Wilbourn (16-18) **Nursing** Absent
Frank Daniels (17-19) **Mathematics**
Leslie Peebles (17-19) **Technologies**
Ed Reid (17-19) **Social and Behavioral Sciences**

- B. We welcomed two new senators, Bill Hill and Daniel Osborne, who will represent Arts and Sciences as division senators. Bill and Daniel replace Shannon Little and LaDonna Young, who are no longer eligible to serve due to their administrative appointments. Doug Branch was asked to

initiate the process to find a replacement for Mahmuda Sultana, who is no longer eligible to serve because of her administrative appointment.

2. Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the September, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted to our website.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

- A. David Huffman, chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee, reported that the adjunct faculty handbook is in the print shop. It should be published online and in print by the end of the semester. A few updates need to be made to the faculty handbook as published online.
- B. Bill Summons reported on the latest TBR meeting, held at Southwest. He was pleased to report that the regents were impressed with Southwest's facilities and the music and dinner at the Civil Rights museum.
- C. Doug Branch reported on the progress of his getting membership rosters for senate committees and having those rosters posted to the website. The process is not yet complete because a few committee chairs have not gotten Doug their rosters, although the majority have done so.
- D. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Thomas Smith be asked to serve as the new chair of the Faculty Awards committee.
- E. Eddie Baker reported on the October SEC meeting with Chris Ezell. Eddie mentioned Chris' saying that there was not going to be a switch, in the advising office, from advisors' determining caseloads by student major rather than by surname. Chris also reported that faculty advising fellows were not going to be hired on a full-time basis but that faculty might have the opportunity to work as advisors, for pay, during peak times.

A few other items Eddie reported Chris' having spoken of: moving the publication of summer class schedules to October, the fact that there would be Pell Grant money for summer students.

A major item: Chris addressed, with the SEC, suspicions among a number of faculty of serious irregularities in the recent hiring process of new deans. The suspicions have centered on the idea that candidates had been pre-selected by the administration. The fact that employee forums were still in process as offers to some candidates were made has been a point of particular contention. Eddie reported Chris' having denied candidates had been pre-

selected, but that Chris verified that offers had been made, in two cases, while the forums were still taking place. The reason was that the administration feared losing good candidates who were entertaining offers from other employers. Chris also addressed what some faculty have seen as issues in particular in the hiring of the new dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics. According to Chris, the two top finalists for the position withdrew. The administration asked the committee whether the third candidate should be offered the position or if the search should be reopened. The committee chose the former option.

Another complaint regarded alleged unfair treatment of Mike Stephens, who had applied for the Dean of Business and Technologies position. The complaint regarded Mike's having been asked questions that were different and more difficult than those asked of other candidates.

A general sense emerged that many senators' discomfort had not been assuaged. It was moved and approved that the senate form an ad hoc committee to investigate possible irregularities into the hiring processes for all four dean positions. That committee, chaired by Dewey Sykes, will include MaLinda Wade, Leslie Peeples, Annette Fournet, and Joanitha Barnes. (The specific membership of the committee was determined by the SEC.)

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4. Old Business

5. New Business

- A. Concern was expressed about Achieving the Dream committees seeming to be appointed to do precisely the same work that Faculty Senate committees have already been appointed to do. It seemed, to some, that the senate committees may be "taken over" if ATD uses substantially the same people. The SEC agreed to get clarification on the purpose of ATD committees and report back next month.

6. Adjournment

Bill Summons adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Branch, Faculty Senate Secretary

