

Faculty Senate Minutes
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Union Avenue Campus
F 318-319
September 10, 2019

1. Call to Order and Roll

Faculty Senate president Bill Summons called the meeting to order at 3:00.
Secretary Doug Branch called the roll:

William Summons (19-21) **President**

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (19-21) **Secretary**

Unfilled Position (18-20)

Holly Green (18-20)

Thomas King (19-21) Absent

Melissa Reyna (19-21) Absent

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Tim Harrison (18-20) Proxy

Kimberly Taylor (19-21)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Joyce Johnson (18-20) **Treasurer**

Delores Thomas-Boland (19-21)

Department Senators

Shilpa Desai (18-20) **Allied Health**

Vicki Armstrong (19-21) **Business and Legal Studies**

Annette Fournet (19-21) **Communications and Fine Arts**

Julie Fournier (19-21) **Languages and Literature**

Matthew Palotti (18-20) **Natural Sciences, Vice-President**

Marilyn Wilbourn (18-20) **Nursing**

Frank Daniels (19-21) **Mathematics, Parliamentarian**

Stewart White (19-21) **Technologies Absent**
Darcy Sims (19-21) **Social and Behavioral Science**

2. Approval of Minutes

The body approved the minutes from the April, 2019 faculty senate meeting. Secretary Doug Branch will ask that those minutes be posted to the website.

3. Reports from Senate Officers and Senate Committees

- A. Bill Summons, president, noted that the president of the college, Dr. Tracy Hall, was interested in the senate's sponsoring a forum with her that would be open to all faculty. We have asked Special Assistant to the Vice-president for Academic Affairs, Cindy Abadie, to provide us with a tentative date for such an event.
- B. Matthew Palotti, vice-president, reported on the senate executive committee's regular monthly meeting with Cindy.

Among the items in Matthew's report:

--The senate did not conduct administrator evaluations this year partially because of Dr. Hall's concerns that the evaluations might not be secure, as they are conducted via email, and that the evaluations as administered in the past might break codes, policies, or laws. The president is in favor of administrator evaluations, but thinks they should be conducted by Institutional Effectiveness. Matt is unsure where the process for developing these evaluations is, currently.

Bill Summons stressed the need to follow up on this item, making it a goal that the evaluations should certainly be administered by spring, 2020.

--Some faculty had expressed concerns about the policy for procuring paper for copying machines. A new policy asks "owners" in every building to order paper supplies from Staples. The money for paper comes not from department budgets but from the college budget.

--Sindy expressed her concern, during the SEC meeting, that Southwest's dual enrollment numbers are behind those of other TBR community colleges. These numbers will be increasing in the very near future.

--There were errors in letters explaining pay increases to faculty members, with about thirty faculty members having been given incorrect

amounts for their emoluments. Sindy, in cooperation with Human Resources, is dealing with this issue.

--TBR policies about tenure and term positions are not in accordance with what Southwest has been practicing for many years. Southwest has had a tendency to hire many faculty members for term rather than tenure-track contracts, notwithstanding TBR's position is that term contracts should be rare. The college is trying to determine new policies for converting many term contracts to tenure-track contracts, but the particulars of such new policies have yet to be made.

- C. Doug Branch, secretary, noted that the proposed amendment to the constitution, involving policies for the selection of promotion and tenure committees, would require a senate vote to move the policy from the constitution to the by-laws. Matthew Palotti reminded the senate that the college president would need to sign the proposed amendment before the senate could vote to add the policy to the by-laws. Matthew has sent this amendment to the president. We hope this vote can happen next month, after the president's approval is obtained and after the senate has had time to review the proposed language of the new promotion and tenure committee selection policy.

4. Old Business

- A. Joyce Johnson discussed faculty complaints about faculty parking at the Union Ave. campus. In an already tight parking situation, faculty spots were taken away from two lots. Joyce has spoken to Jonathan Welden, director of the physical plant, about the issue, and Jonathan has indicated a willingness to returning the spots. Joyce will follow up on this issue. Joyce also suggested the college consider buying the closed Office Depot building, which would be an excellent spot for a large parking garage.

B. New Business

- A. Bill Summons suggested the senate should write a resolution commending the college president for her work in obtaining substantial raises for the faculty. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Senate Secretary Doug Branch agreed to write and deliver the resolution to the president.
- B. Bill Weppner, FDEC chair, opened a discussion about a new pilot program for faculty evaluations. He wishes for the senate to review this program and give guidance upon it, as the details of the pilot program have not yet been finalized.

C. Bill also noted that the FDEC is, for now, no longer going to supervise the awarding of funds for faculty travel. Bill does think, though, that there should be a system in place for faculty members to request money from the FDEC for individual projects. He will get administrative feedback on exactly what the function of the FDEC should be concerning the distribution of funds.

5. The meeting was adjourned by Bill Summons at 4:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Branch,

Faculty Senate Secretary

