

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Southwest Tennessee Community College**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 3:00 PM**  
**Union Ave. Campus, UNS 308**

1. Call to order and roll

Joyce Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00. Doug Branch took the roll.

Joyce Johnson (24-26) **President**

Division Senators, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics

Doug Branch (23-25) **Secretary**

Thomas King (23-25) **Vice-President**

Julie Lester (23-25) (absent)

Lake Newton (24-26)

Annie Sultana (24-26) **Treasurer**

Division Senators, Business and Technologies

Dennis Powers (23-25)

Gary Holder (24-26) (absent)

Division Senators, Health and Natural Sciences

Carlito Chiong (23-25)

Carolyn Jensen (24-26) (absent)

Gerren Herndon (24-26)

Department Senators

Lindsey Shaidnagle (24-26) Allied Health (absent)

Arnetria Taylor (23-25) Business and Legal Studies (absent)

Tad Lauritzen Wright (23-25) Communications, Graphic and Fine Arts

Shelley Trigg (24-26) EMS (proxy)

Melanie Jones (24-26) Computer Information Technology

Emily Ford (23-25) Languages and Literature **Parliamentarian**

Gayathri Kaushik (24-26) Natural Sciences

Kristi Griffin (24-26) Nursing (absent)

Khalil Rassy (24-26) Mathematics

Shannon Little (23-25) Social and Behavioral Sciences

2. Reading and approval of the minutes.

The body approved the minutes from the February 2025 faculty senate meeting.

3. Special Guest: Sheila Bouie, Dean, Nursing

Sheila reported that applications to the nursing program are now open, but that we are not currently admitting new radiation technology students because there is no director for that program. We will admit those students again once the position is filled. Existing radiation technology students are being assisted by Roane State Community College so that they can graduate on time. We currently do not have a physical therapist assistant program, but we have the approvals to reestablish that program and are working to do so.

4. Reports from senate officers and senate committees

A. Thomas King: Report on regular SEC meeting with VPAA Carol Ash

There will be a faculty summit on April 18, an event that will last most of the day and which all full-time faculty are required to attend. This summit will focus on retention, persistence, and graduation.

Good news on the enrollment front is that, while we usually lose students between the fall and spring semesters, we did not this year.

Fall registration will open on April 7. The Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon will be April 22.

Chairs and deans are still discussing concerns about the change in the faculty evaluation cycle, whereby goals are set in April. The FDEC is still sharing its concerns with deans as well.

Summer Institute will be implemented by HR as of summer 2026. It will become a development day for faculty, staff, and administration.

In response to a complaint about some department chairs setting earlier deadlines for faculty for grades, LDA's, and progress reports (for instance) than the college had already set, Dr. Ash said that she would speak to chairs and ask that such deadlines not be altered. Dr. Ash does, however, support the right of chairs to set early deadlines for items they need to review.

B. Thomas King; Elections Committee

TeKay reported that we still do not have enough division candidates to run for the 2025-2026 senate. He asked particularly for current division senators whose terms are ending to let him know if they wish to run for re-election.

C. Thomas King: Grade Appeals Committee

TeKay reported an issue with Dynamic Forms not working correctly, resulting in the grade appeals process being held up. The committee will have to play catch-up a bit because of this problem.

D. Thomas King: Faculty Awards Committee

We do have nominations for all categories except for the Farris Award. More nominations would be good, though. TeKay urged the senate to communicate with departments the need to get a good Farris nominee.

E. Mark Kaplowitz: Faculty Handbook Committee

Mark shared with the senate his committees proposals for changes to the faculty handbook. It was pointed out that another change would need to be made regarding material about the selection of the promotion and tenure and promotion and tenure appeals committees.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the senate accept the report with the understanding that final approval would be contingent upon the above-mentioned changes being made.

F. Joyce Johnson: Constitution Committee

Joyce presented many proposed changes to the constitution, and the senate suggested several additional changes during that Joyce's presentation. We will see a new copy of all proposed changes at a later meeting.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the senate approve the report with the pending changes the senate discussed.

Joyce also presented a number of by-laws changes. Many had to do with formatting. One had to do with adding descriptions of committees to the list of senate committees. Another had to do with a change stipulating that the president might serve on a senate committee but might not stand as a regular voting member.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the senate approve the changes to the by-laws.

5. New Business

Joyce requested that senators provide suggestions for ideas and topics for exploration and presentation on Professional Development Day in Fall 2025, which takes place in August. Joyce asked for emails with such suggestions before Friday, as the committee would be meeting shortly afterwards.

6. Adjournment

Joyce Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doug Branch  
Faculty Senate Secretary