

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate

Tentative (Unapproved) Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, March 23, 2006

Preliminary Information

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:50 p.m. by Senate President Dr. John Foote.

The roll call of senators was conducted by Senate Secretary Silverberg. Senators Black, Eaves, Franks, Gillom, Goldstone, Hatch, Lane, Maurer, Schiller, Schlanger, and Shepherd were absent. The meeting's agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes for the meeting of February 16, 2006, distributed in photocopy, were unanimously approved.

Remarks

University President Dr. Sherry Hoppe announced that the university is engaged in **conversation with the Tennessee Titans about staging their two-week summer training camp**. More information will be in the paper tomorrow; lots of exposure for the university will result if this proposal succeeds.

Provost Dr. Bruce Speck made his remarks. **Faculty Research Forums** were instituted some years ago. Now, after two or three years, attendance is sparse. Conflicts do occur, and attempts have been made to make them more successful. Susan Calovini talked to several individuals and it is recommended that the faculty senate take charge of the forums. Dr. Speck's office will organize them for one more year, and will issue the call for proposals soon. These are interesting forums, and they merit greater attendance. The expectation is that the senate can generate better attendance.

Senate President Dr. John Foote gave his remarks. Reapportionment of senate seats will be underway soon: Senator Prescott and Dr. Rayburn will address this problem. A **special called senate meeting on April 6 will consider changes to the faculty handbook**. A majority is required for actions to pass in such meetings, while those senators in attendance constitute a quorum at regular meetings.

Senate meetings will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays next year; in an effort to get better attendance, senators are asked to please work out their schedules with their department chairs to attend.

Dr. Foote asked Dr. Speck for an update on the search for a dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Speck reported that two strong candidates were identified in the last round of application review. One candidate was offered a new position at his

university starting July 1. A second person has withdrawn his name. Both candidates were impressed with our campus; the search committee is meeting soon to go back to application pool to make a recommendation. Lack of resources continues to pose difficulties when attempting to attract candidates to this type of position.

Dr. Foote added that the lack of a merit pay system is also a flaw, as is the lack of grant support. Dr. Speck noted that other provost's offices have more resources. Resources will not change in the foreseeable future: we can anticipate a possible 2% raise, but even a 1% raise will cost the university \$350,000 and must be funded by the university.

Reports

Tennessee Board of Regents Academic Subcouncil representative Senator Griffy reported that no meetings of the Subcouncil have been held since the last faculty senate meeting. Agenda items for next meeting include Developmental Studies Programs in community colleges. The paydate schedule for community college faculty is also being examined. Dr. Foote asked if the Subcouncil is studying the common ("Memphis") calendar, and Senator Griffy responded in the affirmative, but it is not known how much consideration will be given to the Subcouncil's opinion, nor it is known which aspects of the calendar are definitive.

Academic Council Senator Goldstone was not present. Dr. Speck reported that at yesterday's Academic Council meeting a number of items were passed which will be in the Bulletin. No major issues were brought to the table.

Deans Council Senator Hogan noted that the Deans Council has held three meetings since February 16; there is nothing unusual to report. His notes are wonderful and are on the Senate website; Academic Affairs also posts minutes for Dean's Council.

New Business

The **suspension of rules for the upcoming senator election** (majority vs. top vote-getters) was discussed. Dr. Rayburn provided example of the current difficulty. For one constituted area in the Senate, there may be four open seats, with six candidates running and forty voters. Each candidate might get a majority (more than 20 votes), leaving the election undecided. Suspending the rules to allow the top vote getters to win the election and using a tiebreaker for any actual ties is suggested.

A motion was made to suspend the rules regarding majority winners at the next senate election, permitting top vote getters to win, and the motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Suspending the rule for a quorum at the special meeting of April 6 (regarding Faculty Handbook) was also discussed, and a motion to allow a quorum to be those senators in attendance at this meeting was made. The senate's parliamentarian approves of this motion, which would be in effect for one meeting, and is not an amendment of the Senate's bylaws. The motion to allow a quorum to be equal to those senators in

attendance at the special meeting of April 6 was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Greg Kaufmann, Director of the University's Institute for Global Security Studies, gave a presentation on the University's new relationship with the government of South Sudan.

The purpose of Mr. Kaufmann's presentation was to make senators aware of Sudan issue events. The relationship between the University and South Sudan was not advertised much prior to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (on March 3) due our wish not to be undercut by competitors. Now we can speak more openly.

After five decades of war, the infrastructure of South Sudan has been badly damaged. The nation comprises Muslim, indigenous, and Christian adherents, and damage to its roads has interfered with distribution of agricultural products. In 1956, South Sudan became independent of Britain and Egypt, but agreements were reneged on, and fighting continued. In September, 2005 a comprehensive peace agreement was signed. The South Sudanese have nothing to build on except local tribal loyalty and international goodwill. The country needs to build from the ground up.

There is a history of conflict between northern and southern Sudan, partly based on the fact that Shariya law prevails in the north; in Darfur, there is a Muslim vs. Muslim conflict about the dominance of Arab Muslims, whose faith will not allow for the imposition of Shariya law.

In all ways but one, South Sudan has the responsibilities of a sovereign nation. 2011 is a big year: South Sudan will try to become independent. The subject of the conference held at Austin Peay was peace through development conference. The New Leaders for a New Sudan program will attempt to fill South Sudan's need for 42,000 civil servants. USAID and other Non-Governmental Organizations are working on transferable skills, bringing the diaspora home and putting them to work: we need to grow future leaders, prepare youngsters to populate the government. Steering committee was put together to create the proposal, submitted in February. Moving forward, we are planning a four-year residency project; we are going to help these people develop their scope of vision and skills. Learners will sign contracts to return to South Sudan. Health and Human Performance and nursing will be major areas of focus; health, education, and finance are most important. We have been asked to develop proposals about fields of study, distance and continuing education, etc. South Sudan is considered to be a terrorist supporting country, so there are a lot of security issues.

South Sudan's foreign minister was here during the conference; County Mayor Weiland made him an honorary Clarksvillian; City Mayor Don Trotter gave him the keys to city. The project is about doing research and trying to figure out what works best. There were some good things in most places, but there is nothing like that in South Sudan. There is also a humanitarian aspect of our involvement: so many different ways we can contribute

to this. Kaufmann hopes the faculty will will look for opportunities; we have a tabula rasa here. A community outreach evening is being planned.

Dr. Foote noted that public education, including training in basic literacy and math is being provided in South Sudan's refugee camps by NGOs, which are also beginning to set up schools.

Mr. Kaufmann noted that Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis are centers for the Sudanese diaspora. Many have gotten a start in education in the US.

Senator Christian asked Mr. Kaufmann to review the history of his program at Austin Peay; and asked what the contract will require of us.

Mr. Kaufmann stated that he is a veteran with thirty years of service. In 2003, Dr. Hoppe made a proposal for the Institute for Global Security Studies, and on 1 January 2005, a job announcement was posted. Kaufmann had been posted to Fort Campbell and came here as a direct report to the president. He wishes to stir up collaboration and interest. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency has asked for an emergency management course, and there are other irons in fire. His aim is to help faculty to participate; unlike the small business center, the Institute for Global Security Studies is about academic programs, Global Information Systems, etc. forging partnerships and integrating with other units. The university is looking for a funding niche in global security; we are not investing huge amounts yet, and Mr. Kaufmann does not expect diversion of great amounts or resources. As with the National Institutes of Health, grants tied to academic programs provide opportunities.

Flyers describing the Institute for Global Security Studies are available; Kaufmann seeks a multidisciplinary approach. Resources are tight, that is true, but there is money coming from South Sudan, which enjoys the support of many organizations.

The Sudanese have been fighting terror since 1956. The top 3 leaders attempted to cleanse the south to provide for the islamicization of rest of continent. The comprehensive peace agreement was a huge accomplishment. Schools and Departments involved in Business, Global Information Systems, etc., will all benefit from the University's involvement with South Sudan.

In response to Senator Robison's question, Dr. Hoppe announced that **It was announced that Ann Ross (former bookstore manager for the university) was presented with the Chancellors Award for Philanthropy on Tuesday night.**

Adjournment was moved and immediately approved at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L. Silverberg