

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Thursday, March 16, 2017
University Center, UC 307
3:00pm
Called Meeting
Minutes

Call to order – Senate President Tucker Brown

Recognition of Guests: Christine Mathenge and Mickey Wadia

Roll call of Senators – Senate Secretary Christina Chester-Fangman

Absent Senators: Christopher Bailey, Kenisha Burke, John Byrd, Brian Hock, Kelly Jones, Andriy Kovalsky, Ben Ntatin, Barbara Peterson, John Phillips, James Prescott, Margaret Rennerfeldt, Raman Sahi, Ken Shipley, David Snyder, and Timothy Wesley

Approval of today's agenda: Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve today's agenda

Remarks

1. Senate President – Dr. Tucker Brown (5 minutes)

- The policies under **New Business** will be voted on at the next meeting;
- We have a “light lift” today with mostly copy-over policies;
- If you notice typos or other concerns on these today, please share;
- 5:060 and 5:061 will be coming, as well, for the called meeting on March 30th

New Business

- Faculty Retention of Unreturned Student Work Policy 2:012
- Educational Assistance for Spouse and Dependents of APSU Employees Policy 5:007
- Family, Medical, and Servicemember Leave Policy 5:039
- Return to Work Policy 5:040
- Unemployment Compensation Policy 5:041
- Workplace Violence Prevention Policy 5:042
- Policy on Academic Tenure 5:060
- Policy on Academic Promotion 5:061
- Compensation Policy 5:064
- Employment of Graduate Assistants Policy 5:071
- Retirement Plans Policy 5:072
- Retirement Policy 5:075
- Limited English Proficiency Policy 5:076

Old Business

- **Constitution of Academic Council / University Curriculum Committee Policy 1:012** = The big thing with this (aside from typos) is it is essentially separating curricular items from all other things; as of right now university policy goes through there and the goal is to maintain a separate existence; **motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Q: What is the last stop for policies?
A: It goes to the Policy Committee, from there to the President and ultimately to the new board; there are some things that won't go to the board, though, like issues with minors, concentrations, etc.
 - Q: Who is on that University Policy Committee?
A: Mitch [Robinson] chairs that, the Provost, Sherryl Byrd, Derek van der Merwe, the Faculty Senate President, and the Staff Senate President.
 - Q: Will those go to Deans Council?
A: That is an important question. Senator Berg thinks they have always gone through there and asked if the practice will still be the same. Senate President Brown said that he would try to find a flow chart that outlines the process so we will have something concrete.

- Q: Could you clarify the need for this?
A: Things that didn't arise from the academic side of the house (like the 0-credit hour internship course) were moving forward and shouldn't have. Those things will still have to come through us. This is also for areas that don't have their own curriculum committee because it doesn't go through anything else.
- **Approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **Academic Reorganization Policy 2:009** = There is currently a reorganization proposal for Political Science, Public Management, and Criminal Justice on the Academic Affairs website; **motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Q: Could someone define who is on the Reorganization Proposal Review Committee (page 2, no. 2)?
A: Noted.
 - **Approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **Curricular Change / Curricular Development and Modification Approval Policy 2:001** = This one is more procedural; Dr. Crosby has talked about this; deals with getting courses approved; **motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Q: Under #2, it says that recommendations approved by the department chair can move on to the Curriculum Committee, so even if the faculty think it is a bad idea it can still go forward?
A: Yes, these are advisory and the chair can make the decision to move it forward.
 - **Approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **Experiential Learning Credit Policy 2:016**
 - The big change here is there is no longer a committee and the decision-making power goes to chairs and deans; most of the rest was copied over; **motion made and seconded to accept; no discussion; approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **University Excused Absences for Students Policy 3:034**
 - Shifts power on this issue to the department; the chair has a say in what is a university-sanctioned approved excused absence, in consultation with the dean; **motion made and seconded to accept; no discussion; approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **Chairs, Directors, and Coordinators Policy 5:029** = This still has references to TBR and is a legit copy-over; motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:
 - Comment: This also includes information on TN Tech Center.
 - We will send it back for those corrections. This also deals with the chair's stipend. If a chair is removed the stipend is relinquished. It hasn't been in policy anywhere before.
 - Comment: It also deletes the chair's TLC component at the end on page 10.
 - This was discussed in chairs' meetings. There is a separate policy on chair compensation issues and that is why that was taken out.
 - Q: Are chairs ok with this?
A: With this yes. The other one is still a work in progress.
 - **Approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **APSU Bulletin Policy X:XXX** = This is very much procedural, discussing the role of the *Bulletin*; **motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Comment: Page 2 is blank.
 - Comment: This just outlines the things that students are supposed to know.
 - **Approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **Faculty and Academic Staff Abroad Policy X:XXX**
 - This deals with some of what was talked about before with the Study Abroad Policy, but specifically states that we are at the mercy of the host institution with academic freedom; **motion made and seconded to accept; no discussion; approved (none opposed, one abstention)**
- **Adjunct Employees Policy, X:XXXX** = **Motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Comment: There are still TBR references in there;

- Comment: There is new language under “Requirements” about exceptional cases when adjuncts have teaching experience, but not the degree; it is pretty infrequent that it happens, and SACS allows for it;
- Comment: The part-time faculty compensation link goes to TBR;
- Comment: The evaluation process leads to a pilot review process document, not policy and we need to have concrete policy on that, including a link to the correct form;
- **Approved (none opposed, one abstention)**

- **Library Inventory Policy X:XXXX = Motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Comment: Remove TBR references.
 - Comment: The *Tennessee Code* drives this policy.
 - Q: Why is it in policy that the Library chooses whether or not to do it to stay in compliance?
A [Senator Berg]: It is necessary to do inventories and we do them regularly. The language might be better if it were stated something like “The Library will do an inventory in one of the methods defined.”
 - Q: Why are all of these policies coming to us with these mistakes?
A: There is a ton of information to go through and people are just trying to make the deadlines.
 - **Approved (one opposed, one abstention)**

- **Undergraduate Academic Retention Standards Policy 1:00X = This comes from the Center for Teaching & Learning; motion made and seconded to accept; discussion:**
 - Q: Is this even a policy? If so, they need policy statement.
A: It is definitely a policy.
Comment: Then it shouldn’t refer to itself as “guideline.”
 - Senate President Brown: The info here is practice on the campus and this just codifies the practice.
 - Q: As we are looking at the grades here, what is the rationale for using only the letters and not a plus and minus system?
A: This was actually investigated several years ago and in deliberative polling it was completely shot down by students. They were concerned that they would get the high B instead of the low A.
 - Comment: Even a point system would be more detailed than what we have now.
 - Senate President Brown: After this vote, let’s do a thumbs up/thumbs down on me taking this issue to the Provost.
 - **Approved (seven opposed, seven abstentions)**
 - **Up or down vote passed by majority, so Senate President Brown will take the plus/minus grading system to the Provost.**

Information Items

- Copy-over policies :<http://www.apsu.edu/faculty-senate/copy-over-policies>
- Deleted policies and guidelines: <http://www.apsu.edu/faculty-senate/deleted-policies-guidelines>

Adjourn: Motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 3:33pm