

**Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Meeting of Thursday, November 15, 2012
University Center, UC 307
3:00 p.m.**

Call to order – Senate President Elaine Berg

Welcome – Guests Andrew Robinson, Sherri Devers, and Donna Price

Roll call of Senators – Senator Becky Starnes. Absent Senators: Brockman, Di Paolo, Frentzos, Frederick, Ntatin, Nyonna, Pitts, Ruiz-Aviles, Shipley, Shelton, Sims, J. Thompson, L. Thompson.

Approval of agenda. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to make the following changes to the agenda: 1) postpone President's Hall's comments until he arrived, 2) cancel the item for comments to be made by Dr. Tristan Denley, and 3) to cancel the item for Mr. Art Lipsky to make plans regarding the university master plan.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2012 meeting as submitted.

Remarks.

1. Senate President – Elaine Berg

The Winter Term is scheduled for five weeks not six. The reason for the five-week schedule is to ensure coherence with the summer five-week terms.

President Berg asked Senator Wadia to confirm that the university attorney has always been a part of the Faculty Handbook Committee policy approval process.

Revisions to TBR Academic Guideline A-019 (Academic Calendars and Student Registration) were approved by the President's Council on November 7.

The Senate Executive Committee received the Provost's approval to establish a committee dealing with smart classroom technology and maintenance of technology in those classrooms. Senators were invited to forward names of individuals to serve on this new committee to the Senate Executive Committee.

President Berg announced that the Athletic Department's staff and faculty appreciation day was scheduled for November 17. There will be free admission to the football game and that a Faculty Senate tailgate party would also be available.

2. The Faculty Senate Representatives serving on the Dean's Council, Academic Council, and the TBR Faculty Sub-council had no reports since no meetings had been held since the last Faculty Senate meeting.

3. Donna Price, Sherry Devers, and Andrew Robinson gave updates on financial aid and new scholarship web site. The slides accompanying their presentations will be posted on the Faculty Senate Documents Site.

4. President Tim Hall was welcomed to the meeting. President Hall commented the THEC Budget Recommendation Committee had voted to make no cuts to higher education and to increase APSU's budget by 12 percent (approximately \$3 million dollars) for Academic Year 2013-2014. THEC encouraged state universities to think carefully about how state funding can be used to help students succeed.

5. President Berg began a discussion about a request from the TBR Sub-Council regarding the Sub-Council's action on a University of Tennessee-Knoxville resolution on benefits for same-sex domestic partners. This request was first mentioned by Dr. Kanervo at the October Faculty Senate meeting. James Robert Bitter, chair of the TBR Faculty Sub-Council asked the APSU Senate whether our sub-council should:

- A. Send a resolution of support (or not) to the UT Faculty Senate in relation to their resolution;
- B. Develop our own resolution (or not) on this issues to forward to the Board of Regents for consideration; or
- C. Remain neutral and take no stand either way.

The discussion ended with the following conclusions: 1) that Faculty Senate members would discuss this request with their fellow faculty members and come prepared to vote on one of the options at the January 2013 meeting and 2) an ad hoc committee of Senators Kitterman, Lowrance, and Gray would draft an additional resolution that would recommend that unmarried heterosexual domestic partners receive the same personnel benefits as those received by same-sex domestic partners in the UT resolution.

6. President Berg reminded individuals that a special ceremony was being held at 5 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom to recognize APSU employees who are veterans.

7. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m.