

Tentative (unapproved) Minutes for  
APSU Faculty Senate Meeting of January 26, 2006  
Sundquist Auditorium, E 106A SSC

**Preliminary Information**

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m. by Faculty Senate President Dr. John Foote

Roll was taken by Faculty Senate Secretary Silverberg. Senators Black, Deibert, Franks, Hodge, Lane, and Vanarsdel were absent.

Approval of the meeting's agenda was unanimous.

Approval of minutes for the meetings of October 27 and November 17 was unanimous, with the amendment of the attendance list for the November meeting as directed by Dr. Silverberg (Senators Black, Eaves, Kenney, Lane, Magrans, Maurer, Myers, Rayburn, Reagan, Schiller, and Vanarsdel were absent on November 17).

**Remarks**

**University President Dr. Sherry Hoppe** provided some general information, noting that a major international conference will take place with diaspora chapters from the United States and Canada present during the first week of March; this meeting is connected to the proposal to work together with the government of South Sudan.

Dr. Hoppe noted the following regarding **university facilities improvement**:  
McCord Building renovations should be finished in July; the building will house Geology, Geography, Nursing, and the Global Information Systems Center.  
McReynolds will contain Continuing Education, Institute for Global Security, University Advancement, and Grants and Sponsored Research.  
The Marks Building will house Academic Support, Developments Studies, and Disability Services. The Tennessee Board of Regents is supplying between eight hundred and nine hundred thousand dollars to renovate McReynolds and Marks as capital maintenance projects; one problem is to address building code issues. The University Recreation Center is expected to be complete late next fall or in early 2007.

Dr. Hoppe passed along information from the most recent Tennessee Higher Education Committee meeting she attended. Austin Peay State University has twelve unique peer institutions from whom data is collected, and used to determine formulas, etc.

**Austin Peay's funding per FTE** (student full-time equivalent) compared to its peers is 86.4%: we're the lowest compared to peer average; the range goes to high of 98.9% (at Tennessee Tech).

In real dollars, this difference in funding means that we are 2.2 million dollars short; and 96.5% of this burden is borne by student tuition and fees: 51.78% of our dollars come from students' tuition and fees while 50.19% is the average. Instruction currently accounts for 51.74% of the university's budget.

**University Provost Dr. Bruce Speck** reported that Austin Peay's **Master of Arts in Military History** was approved at the business meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education commission. It is hoped that online courses for this program will be developed to aid military enrollees assigned to distant locations.

Dr. Speck reported that **Student Affairs is being reorganized** under Dr. Diane Berty; lots of job openings will be coming, including the positions of Dean of Students and Association Vice President of Student Affairs.

Sheila Bryant will be the University's Affirmative Action officer (she has served on an interim basis). The university registrar position will be posted, as will Diane McDonald's position (she is now interim assistant vice president for academic affairs).

Dr. Foote raised the question of science teaching loads, and Dr. Speck replied that Kay Clark is in charge of this committee. Senator Griffy noted that institutions use a variety of ways to assign science loads. Dave Stanislawski from Chattanooga is our representative on the committee addressing this problem.

**Senate President Dr. Foote** reported on **faculty retirees** on the Optional Retirement System losing accrued sick leave on retirement (it is not credited as service, as it is if employees are members of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System). Dr. Ted Heidloff (Director of Human Resources) has this topic entered in the TBR Human Resources subcouncil agenda. The post-retirement service opportunity is now 20% (of salary) for a maximum of two years.

Dr. Foote announced the results of the **faculty referendum on a smoke-free campus**. The measure passed by a margin of 20 to 30 votes; all other groups (staff, student) referenda results were similar. The new policy has now come out, but it includes smokeless tobacco; Dr. Foote objected to this interpretation, which broadens the scope of the referendum question.

Dr. Foote announced that his request asking faculty if they felt there was a need for a **testing center** received an overwhelming response, with respondents asking for the establishment of a testing center; faculty who are not teaching online also felt that a testing center is necessary

## **Reports**

### **TBR Subcouncil**

**Senator Griffy's** notes from last week's meeting are posted on the Senate website. She remarked that **information technology updates** include Banner implementation, and the merger of the Blackboard and Web CT systems; the latter will create problems for us. Policies in the pipeline include assessment of **institutional credit based on experiential learning**; a TBR policy will come down regarding this issue. **Articulation of**

**university credits from those issued by technical centers** and applied to associates degrees earned at community colleges is under discussion. The TBR staff has concluded that technical center diploma credits are not intended to become university credits

A TBR policy will soon state that no more than \$9,500 can be paid to faculty to develop courses, and there should be no **duplication of online courses**. If a degree program is completely available online, it should be sent to the TBR to assure that it is not duplicated within the TBR system.

The State Department of Education will **delete special education high school diplomas**: thus, these students will now qualify for university admission. Their diploma will not be differentiated from others. There will be a minimum reading score required for high school graduation, such as a 12 ACT reading score or its equivalent. There is a proposal afoot to raise the adjunct pay rate, which will have a great impact on community colleges.

The **common calendar task force** is facing lots of complaints, so a committee is looking at this. The common calendar's lack of flexibility is a problem; short semesters are also a source of complaint.

In answer to questions posed by senators, Dr. Griffy noted that no minimum math score is required for admission to Austin Peay. The online nursing master's and similar programs may come under fire from Senator Fowler, who thinks that offering parallel online degree programs at multiple TBR institutions is wasteful. This could take away an entire nursing program. Dr. Griffy stated that current online programs will be OK, but new programs will be checked for duplication. Dr. Hoppe raised the possibility of a systemwide Master's in nursing, with everyone sharing a piece of the program. This could happen, but there is no final decision yet.

Senator Newport asked about experiential credit approval. Dr. Griffy noted that the TBR presented a policy about experiential credit earning and evaluation, which was approved at the subcouncil level.

**Academic Council:** Senator Goldstone reported that there has been no meeting since November 30.

**Deans Council:** Senator Hogan has posted his notes from six Deans Council meetings on the Senate website. At the January 11 meeting, a policy dealing with the once-a-year opportunity to modify the general education core was revisited. The system for evaluating chairs and directors will be modified this year; the form will be modified, with some new questions added. A form to be electronically submitted to change grades of I (incomplete) or IP (in progress) is to be sent to chairs.

### **Old Business**

**Survey of Advisement** form: Senator Filippo's committee has revised the form, adding graduate student to the student information section. A twelfth question was added, asking if the student's degree audit was correct. Senator Robison moved that the revised form be approved, and the motion was seconded. No further discussion occurred and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

Dr. Harriett McQueen (Dean for Enrollment Management and Academic Support) described the **Title III grant proposal**. A handout from Dr. McQueen summarized the status of our freshman students. The purpose of Title III grants is to **increase instructional capacity to serve needy students** (those at a certain level of risk of dropping out as determined by a variety of factors). By helping the whole group of students, subgroups will also be helped. The Title III grant proposal notes negative factors, some of which were brought together during the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation reaffirmation process a few years ago, including the Quality Enhancement Program. Dr. McQueen noted three points addressed in the grant proposal:

- a. Austin Peay's academic programs and support services are inadequate for diverse learners. We are not prepared to address the diversity of student body. A national survey of student engagement shows that courses such as APSU 1000 are inadequate preparation for many students. Developmental studies are often needed; reading rates are poor: the developmental reading problem must be addressed. One recommendation is to do a reading assessment on entering students. This spring we have 160 more students in developmental math than in spring 05. Fall-to-fall retention is up, but it is not where it needs to be. Our nearly open admission for non-traditional students hurts us in this regard. We should be moving to 70% fall-to-fall retention, but we are at 62%, and our four-year graduation rate is 12%. We are Tennessee's fastest growing university and we have grown by 20% or so recently. African-American enrollment is up 5% ; Hispanic enrollment is also up. 85% of our students receive need-based financial aid, which is 20% more than in 2000; 50% need developmental studies. 48% of our students are 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students; most work 30 hours per week and have family responsibilities as well. We have inadequate resources to deal with these issues. With admissions standards of a 19 ACT or a 2.75 GPA, we need an academic strengthening program. Our new early alert system resulted in the referral of 1400 students. One 20-hour-a-week graduate student managed this. About half of these students met with the graduate student. There is an increased demand for peer tutoring, and no supplemental instruction is happening.
- b. We have a weak infrastructure for getting information to faculty. Almost 70% of faculty had little or no knowledge of SIS, and Banner is on the horizon; 88% of the faculty can't use student data. In Fall 2007, Banner will be in place.
- c. We have chronic inadequate financial support for additional programs, which could transform teaching and learning activities. The first activity needed is to strengthen

academic support by strengthening academic advising, which is part of the Quality Enhancement Program. The second activity is creating learning communities, and the third is developing comprehensive development programs for faculty and staff. Off-campus professional development is out there, but faculty and staff do not often participate. Austin Peay's ranking in student academic support is low. Plans include revision of the Quality Enhancement Plan, which is a good source. A consultant from Noel-Levits also made recommendations. The grant seeks two million dollars over a five-year period, and the project is to be led by core retention team.

Dr. Foote asked Senators to respond to him with thoughts about the testing center. Regarding tenure requirements changing while faculty are in the process: we still waiting for answer from a conference call that has been postponed.

Dr. Foote raised the topic of **Electronic Dossiers for faculty evaluation**. Comments have come to executive committee members and Dr. Foote invited an open discussion of this item. It has been noted that it is time-consuming to scan necessary documents. The supplemental documents folder may be submitted in hard copy this year. Use of the electronic supplemental folder is not required. Senator Christian raised the issue of security. Dossiers are said to be non-printable, but committee members can print it. Access is also an issue: college level committees should receive dossiers after departments make recommendations. Dr. Mike Gotcher noted that Samantha Penney and her staff are to scan review materials. Comments from Dean Gaines Hunt, Dr. Gotcher, and Dr. Rayburn noted that the timeline for uploading reviews is very tight. Dr. Rayburn said that forms should go to Samantha Penney's office, and chairs should provide a hard copy of reviews to their Dean's office, to make the department forms available to the college committee if they want to see it. Dr. Griffy: noted problems with the arrival of student evaluations. Online courses have no evaluations, it seems. The Faculty Handbook Committee has discussion of the E Dossier on its agenda.

**Adjournment** was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L. Silverberg  
Senate Secretary