

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Meeting of Thursday, April 22, 2021
Zoom meeting | 3:00 pm
Minutes

Call to order – Senate President

Welcome to the April meeting. Lots of voting items.

Recognition of guests. Please add “guest” in front of your name.

Roll call of Senators – Roll will be derived from the zoom meeting report.

Motion to accept agenda.

Approval of Today’s Agenda

Moved/Second.

Agenda approved.

Motion to approve

Moved/Second

Approval of minutes from meeting on March 25, 2021

Minutes approved.

Remarks

1. Senate President: Thanks for all that you do. Welcome APSU President!
2. University President

I echo Senate President’s comments. Thank you all. I do appreciate it. Those graduating are well armed to be successful, I know. College Orientation tours have been fun and eye opening and rewarding. Helps me interact with the external constituencies. I met with the Industrial Development Board, Clarksville Chamber and Nashville Chamber for a dialogue for student and faculty opportunities. I participated in the Cherry Blossom festival. I’m hosting the Consul General of Japan next week. Inaugural doctoral symposium for Ed.D students was very exciting.

I was at Henry County High School for recruitment.

GovsGive was very successful. Faculty and staff participation was remarkable. I will match that commitment. Plant the campus red was today.

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We plan to get people back to campus by June 1 and normal by Fall. Plans maybe adjusted accordingly.

Thanks.

Senate President: Thank you.

3. University Provost

Let me echo APSU President's comments. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

GovsRow was a success. 231 students registered.

May 15th there will be a Row event and also in June, July and August.

Retention important as well. Currently we have 7% retention lower than last year.

We will send out messages to students via various messaging techniques.

We have 7 commencement ceremonies coming up in May. We need volunteers.

Thank you.

Any questions.

Senate President: We will not be sitting on the floor in the ceremonies.

New Business:

1. Report from Faculty Red Committee

Thanks to all committee members for participating. We got good professional diversity on this committee. Our recommendations are for best practices in the profession.

Charge was to create a process. These evaluations have a large weight in this process.

We have a non- structured program across colleges. Not much Professional

Development (PD) opportunities currently. We did some research and engaged with

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best practices. In the spirit of PD and reliability we made this recommendation. See report on Senate website.

For Tenure-Track faculty: We propose to have 2 evaluators of their teaching as opposed to 1. Chair participation is also needed more. Faculty could give 3 names to chair and chair decides which ones will be evaluating. 2nd observer: evaluators can be outside their discipline/college. Decided by chair. Faculty can still give suggestions. Challenges there.

How is this possible? The 2 observers will have a pre-observation meeting. They attend and observe the same class session at the same time and provide constructive feedback. This is for PD and not dossier. Seek resources to improve for faculty. The last observation goes into the e-dossier. PD improvement process needed by this mechanism. This is for Years 1-3 for tenure track faculty.

Years 4--tenure: still 2 observers required. Observers come to 2 consecutive class periods.

See document provided on Senate website.

Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

Moved/Second.

Chair could work with faculty with multiple modalities, espousing class and labs etc.

Thank you.

Motion to accept the report.

Move/second.

Open for discussion.

Guest: Thanks to Committee Chair. Report will finally go to the RTP committee. But this new way of evaluation is a sea change in the way we do the RTP.

Suggestion to postpone discussion till Fall.

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Robust discussion about allowing flexibility in evaluations.

Motion to extend time by 7 minutes

Yes.

Parliamentarian: I support the idea to postpone discussion till fall.

Senator: Thank you. Motion to postpone this. It will be reworked by the RTP committee and brought back in fall.

Motion to postpone.

Second.

Discussion about the new proposal.

Voting on: Postpone discussion and voting for the faculty red committee report.

Yes: 89%, No 8%, 3% abstain.

2. Updates from General Education Standing Committee

The General Education Committee would like to better market our General Education Core for current and potential students. We aim to clarify, create greater visibility, and advocate for the strength of our current General Education offerings. To that end, we believe the information in the Undergraduate Bulletin is due for an update. In particular, the committee proposes the addition of descriptive language about each of the individual subject areas that frame our General Education Core. Our goal is to help students to see the value of the different subject areas, no matter their major. Sub-committees of faculty members on the General Education Committee produced the subject area descriptions, received feedback from the rest of the committee members, and made revisions. We brought this language to the Chairs, asked them to disseminate the information among the appropriate faculty within their departments, and consulted with the Deans. Ultimately, we also plan to use these subject area descriptors within the General Education section of the website in addition to the Undergraduate Bulletin.

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Thank you.

3. Changes in the Faculty Handbook

Document on Senate website. We have a new website to make it dynamic resource for faculty. Most changes have been editorial.

Language related to LMS: p.93 of pdf.

We can vote on them individually for substantive changes.

Rewording on para 1.

Motion to accept changes as presented by the Handbook Committee.

Motion for change number 1.

Moved/second

Discussion: 1. ADA compliant syllabi for all classes in their D2L shells?

No questions.

Ready to vote.

Question from Senator: We can only post syllabus in the LMS, but not handed out as a hard copy syllabus?

Committee chair: at the minimum the syllabus should be on D2L.

Senator: handout possibility not there?

Senator: some faculty are resistant to using LMS and hence my query

Committee chair: share the syllabus as a paper document and also on D2L is okay.

Voting on first change in Handbook as proposed.

Do you approve proposed change #1 to the Faculty Handbook?

Yes 79%, no 13% , abstain 8%

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Second: Grade book in D2L. Faculty are strongly encouraged to use the LMS/D2L gradebook approved at the department level for all classes regardless of modality.

Motion to accept the second proposed change to Handbook

Moved/Second

Discussion

Senator: I have stuff in an excel spreadsheet that is not compatible with the D2L gradebook. Do I need to change the way I grade?

Committee chair: our proposal is not to stronghold anyone.

Senator: the proposal says nothing about keeping an excel spreadsheet for grades

Motion to extend time by 10 minutes

Moved/Second

Committee chair: we don't want to impact pedagogy. "strongly encouraged" is added to make it open to all.

Comment by guest from Academic Affairs about contingent faculty being able to step in in the LMS and if needed and maintain continuity with the original instructor pedagogy.

Senator: Distance Ed folks are helpful. Teacher should take accurate records for students.

Vote on the number 2.

Do you approve proposed change #2 to the faculty handbook?

Yes 77%, no 18%, abstain 5%

Committee chair: change number 3. Faculty are encouraged to use the D2L calendar for all modalities. See document on Faculty Senate website.

Motion to accept

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Moved/second

Move to vote.

Voting on change 3.

Do you approve proposed change #3 to the faculty handbook?

Yes 71%, no 24% , abstain 5%

Change passed.

Committee chair: Last change number 4. Additional course resources can be added to D2L.

Motion to Accept

Moved/Second

Discussion

Do you approve proposed change #4 to the faculty handbook?

Yes 84%, no 13%, abstain 3%

Change passed.

4. Honors and Awards Procedures

We have considered some new awards. Award for adjuncts.

We propose to have Socrates Award for each college.

Even if the winner receives a smaller cash award and a plaque.

Straw Poll.

1. I would support a teaching award for adjuncts

Yes 82, no 16, abstain 2

2. I would support a Socrates Award winner for each colleges

yes 70, no 27 , abstain 2

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3. I would support a Socrates award winner for each college even if it means each winner will receive a smaller cash award in addition to a plaque
Majority says Yes.

5. Staff Service Award voting

In the faculty senate document to review, please see document. 3 nominees.

We have to vote on them.

Award will be given out in our next Senate meeting.

Senator: It has been a pleasant surprise in the past. We should not inform the award winners now.

6. Election Process for Exec Committee Members

Guidelines for Faculty Senate Exec Committee Elections. Similar to last year. Document on Senate Website.

I propose we don't accept nominations from the floor. All at large nominations by email to Rod by May 5, 4:30pm.

Motion to accept.

Moved/Second

Discussion

I vote to accept the guidelines for Faculty Senate officer elections using zoom platforms for May 6, 2021 meeting?

Yes 100%, no 0, abstain 0

Senate President: Thank you all.

Vote of thanks to all old senators. Your service is most appreciated.

Motion to Adjourn

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Moved/Second

Meeting adjourned: 5:13pm.