

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: October 21, 2021
Time: 3:10 pm
Location: online live at <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/95031825503>
Called By: Tammy Garland, Faculty Senate President

Attendance: X = present

Senator	Role	21-Oct	Senator	Role	21-Oct
Barnes, John	RCOB NTT		Knox, Sara	CAS BS NTT	X
Basham, Sherah	CAS BS T/TT	X	Locander, Dave	RBOB T/TT	X
Boyd, Jennifer	President Elect	X	Mandravelis, Stephen	CAS FA T/TT	
Caskey, Jodi	At-Large, NTT	X	McPherson, Joyce	At-Large, Adj	X
Colston, Marissa	At-Large	X	Mills, Ethan	CAS HU T/TT	X
Crawford, Beth	CHEPS T/TT	X	Mitchell, Tiffany	CAS HU NTT	X
Crittenden, Courtney	At-Large	X	Nall, Rachel	CHEPS NTT	
Court, David	CAS FA NTT	X	Nichols, Roger	CAS MS T/TT	X
Cruz, Elicia	CHEPS NTT		Ozmy, Joshua	Non-Voting	X
Cummiskey, Julia	At-Large		Padalino, Carolyn	CHEPS NTT	X
Debter, David	CAS MS NTT	X	Palmer, Heather	CAS HU T/TT	
DePrez, Bernadette	CHEPS T/TT		Panagiotou, Eleni	CAS MS T/TT	X
Devries, Stephanie	CAS MS T/TT		Phuong, Chang	CECS NTT	
Dileepan, Dileep	RCOB T/TT	X	Schafer, Erika	CAS FA T/TT	X
Dockery, Todd	RCOB NTT		Schultz, Lucy	CAS HU NTT	
Epperson, Brooke	CHEPS T/TT	X	Simmons, Charlene	Past President	X
Fomunung, Ignatius	CECS T/TT	X	Simms-Robertson, Priscilla	CHEPS T/TT	
Gao, Culian (Lani)	CAS MS T/TT		Smith, Wes	CHEPS T/TT	X
Garland, Tammy	President	X	Stuart, Christopher	CAS HU T/TT	
Gillison, Stephanie	RCOB T/TT	X	Swaren, Chantelle	CHEPS T/TT	X
Goulet, Ron	CECS T/TT	X	Thul, Susan	CHEPS T/TT	
Hansen, Christopher	CHEPS T/TT		Tyndal, Laura	At-Large	
Harper, Neil	At-Large, Adj		Wang, Yingfeng	At-Large	X
Ibrahim, Hamdy	CECS T/TT	X	Ward, Chandra	CAS BS T/TT	X
Jordan, Joseph	CAS HU T/TT		Whightsel, Oren	At-Large, NTT	X
Khmelko, Irina	CAS BS T/TT	X	Wigal, Cecelia	At-Large	X
Kimbro, Devori	CAS HU NTT	X	Zie, Mengjun	CECS T/TT	X
Klingbeil, Thandi	CAS MS NTT	X			

Author: Cecelia M. Wigal, Faculty Senate Secretary
Date: October 29, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Tammy Garland at 3:10pm and attendance was taken.

1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from September 16th, 2021, were reviewed. There was no discussion or corrections. Minutes were approved.

2. Administrative Reports

The following administrative reports were provided.

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Associate Provost Matt Matthews

No formal report. Associate Provost Matthews responded to questions regarding vaccine mandates concerning the differing risk profiles of UTC employees. Matt stated Provost Hale is aware of these concerns. He will address them in a Q&A in 2 weeks.

Vice Chancellor Tyler Forest

Vice Chancellor Forest reminded those responsible for approving time to ensure approval in advance of the biweekly payroll deadlines.

3. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were provided.

General Education (Lauren Ingraham)

Dr. Ingraham stated they are still requesting feedback on the preliminary proposal. They are also contacting faculty to be involved in the review of the general education student outcomes on communication.

Handbook Committee (Wes Smith)

The following revisions of the Handbook were discussed, and the stated revision proposals were acted upon.

a. *Handbook: NTT Termination Section 4.5*

There was no discussion on this revision. **The motion to accept the proposal revision was approved (30 yes, 0 no).**

b. *Handbook: NTT Faculty (in conjunction with NTT Committee) - Appointment*

There used to be no policy on non-tenure track appointment contracts. Business is concerned with the changes on the length of contract for some appointment levels. Specifically, they are concerned that the 1-year contract for the assistant professor of practice level is too restrictive.

Wes Smith proposed an amendment to the proposal to change the length of contract to be up to 3 years for assistant professor practice, clinical, and research. Thus, both assistant and associate ranks can have a 3-year contract. **The motion to accept the proposal revision with the amendment was approved (31 yes, 0 no).**

c. *Handbook: NTT Faculty (in conjunction with NTT Committee) – Promotion*

The wording in this section is new. Some discussion occurred and the process of appeal was clarified – faculty can remove their application for promotion at any time (and try again the following year). This includes removal at the time of department head review if it appears the department head is not supportive of the promotion

The motion to accept the proposal revision was approved (30 yes, 0 no).

The following revision of the Bylaws were discussed, and the stated revision proposals acted upon.

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a. *Bylaws: Out of Session Voting*

Charlene Simmons proposed that guideline #7 should read “The outcome of a vote, i.e., the success or failure of a motion is determined by a simple majority of those voting, provided that a majority of members participate in the vote.” Cecelia Wigal seconded this amendment.

The motion to accept the proposed revision with the amendment was approved (30 yes, 1 no).

b. *Bylaws: Scheduling of Meetings*

Charlene Simmons stated that a meeting being called with at least 24 hours is too short for a response if we do not define what is meant by an emergency. Marisa Colston asked if there is an issue with the 72 hours used in the past. Beth Crawford motion to amend the proposed revision to use 72 hours instead of 24 hours. Marisa Colston seconded.

Wes Smith, committee chair, pulled this revision proposal back to committee for further consideration of this concern.

c. *Bylaws: Officers: Duties, Qualifications, and Resources - Secretary*

There was no discussion on this revision proposal. The motion to accept the revision proposal was approved (27 yes, 0 no).

4. **New Business**

The following new business was discussed.

Senate Apportionment

The only change is an addition of 1 nontenure track faculty member from the Library.

Living Wage Resolution for Staff

A resolution developed by the Executive Committee was presented in support of UTC working toward \$15/hr. for minimum wage over the next 3 years. Tyler Forest mentioned that this transition will take a few years and the funding source is not yet determined.

Charlene moved to accept the resolution and Ethan Mills seconded. 28 approved, 0 opposed.

Covid Absence Statement for Spring 2022

The outcome of the survey on Covid Absence Statement indicates that faculty desire a Covid Absence Statement for Spring 2022. Of the approximate 150 responders,

- 69% desire a Covid Absence Statement for Spring 2022
- Respondents want a statement that is consistent with the fall 2021 statement
- 74% believe students should wear masks
- 54% want a general University wide attendance policy (Brett Fuchs has a draft University attendance policy that can be shared.)

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The Spring 2022 Covid Absence Statement will be brought forward in the November meeting.

Course Learning Evaluation Survey Results

The following are some of the findings from the Course Learning Evaluation Survey.

- Most faculty report students are not completing evaluations.
- Faculty are in favor of peer evaluations.
- A high percentage of women believe there is bias against women.
- It is hard to determine any difference with respect to race because people choose not to identify race
- There is not a breakdown of statistics by college.

Now we must determine what we do with this information. Matt Matthews interjected that a quick scan of the policy on the use of Course Learning Evaluations suggests they may not be used for personnel decisions (annual evaluation, promotion, tenure). But he defers full understanding of evaluation use entirely to the SACSCOC Liaison.

5. Old Business

Faculty should read President Boyd's recent letter on Covid 19 vaccination requirement.

6. Faculty Concerns

The following faculty concerns were mentioned.

Faculty & Staff Compensation: The question was raised as to how we ensure faculty are compensated appropriately. It was identified there is action addressing compensation for faculty who are also assigned administrative positions.

President Boyd's Politician Fund Raiser: President Boyd apologized for this action and has stated he will not be involved in such political actions again as long as he is UT President.

7. Announcements

Tammy will send out the draft of the Sick Leave Policy for feedback. It will be discussed at the November meeting.

8. Adjournment

Courtney Crittenden moved for adjournment, and it was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.