



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting Date:	10/12/2020	Time:	14:45 – 16:30	Location:	Zoom
Next Meeting:	20/26/2020	Scribe:			Patrick Brown
Present:	Blackhart, Ginette; Blackwell, Roger; Brown, Patrick; Burford, Mike; Burns, Bracken; Byington, Randy; Chen, Yi-Yang; Cherry, Donna; Collins, Charles; De Oliveira Fiuza, Felipe; Dunn, Andrew; Ecay, Thomas; Elangovan, Saravanan; Ellis, Jon; Emma, Todd; Epps, Susan; Evanshen, Pam; Fisher, Stacey; Foley, Virginia; Fraysier, Donna; Funk, Bobby; Garris, Bill; Gomez-Sobrino, Isabel; Gray, Jeffrey; Hagemeier, Nick; Hawthorne, Sean; Hemphill, Bill; Hemphill, Jean; Hendrix, Stephen; Holmes, Alan; Johnson, Jeanna Michelle (Mikki); Johnson, Leigh; Kahn, Shoeb; Kim, Sookhym; Kruppa, Michael; Lyons, Renee; Mackara, Fred; McGarry, Theresa; Mitchell, Holly; Nivens, Ryan; O'Neil, Kason; Park, Esther; Peterson, Jonathan; Ramsey, Priscilla; Sargsyan, Alex; Silver, Ken; Stevens, Alan; Stone, William; Tai, Chih-Che; Thompson, Beth Ann; Walden, Rachel; Waters, Susan				
Absent:	Johnson, Michelle; Livingston, James				
Excused:	Alexander, Katelyn; Sergiadis, Ashley				

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order
1. Celebrations
2. Introductions of Guests
3. Announcements
4. Presentation - Dr. Bill Flora, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives
5. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2020
6. Information Items
7. Action Items
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Comments from Guests
11. Adjourn

DISCUSSIONS

1. Celebrations <p>1.1 Epps – The concert band will be performing on Wednesday at 12:15 on the patio next to Burseson Hall. In case of rain it will be moved to Friday at the same time.</p> <p>1.2 Hendrix – Dr. Thompson got an article accepted on using Escape Rooms in Nursing Education.</p> <p>1.3 Mackara – has been approved for retirement incentive program and will be retired on December 31.</p> <p>1.4 Khan – got three papers published in three different journals.</p>
2. Introductions



DISCUSSIONS

3. Announcements

4. Presentation

4.1 Flora – Presenting with Dr. Evelyn Roach on the syllabus bank project that emerged over a year ago from an SGA request. We have a strong start in creating a repository of syllabi attached to classes. These are not current, they are from the last time the class was taught and are there so students can see what a class is all about.

Roach – They are collecting syllabi from last academic year and this term. The project has a go-live date of Spring 2021. U of Memphis is wanting to follow our lead and copy what we have. Dr. Roach has been in communication with the registrar at UM so they can follow our lead. This is not a unique idea, most schools already provide syllabi in their systems, like Western Kentucky. Building this is not a lot of work, faculty just send in their syllabi and her office plugs everything into the system.

Flora – There is no requirement for a standardized syllabus, although there is a template available for faculty who want it.

Roach – When students load the page it begins with a disclaimer that these are old syllabi and may not represent current offerings of the course. The syllabi will be available in Gold Link through the Lookup classes feature. Syllabi are loaded through Banner and are only available to ETSU personnel. This repository will also be useful for curriculum committees to look for similar classes when evaluating new course proposals.

Flora – There is a template on the curriculum innovation website. These are optional templates that faculty may choose to use if they so desire.

Roach – showed the template to the group. Advisors are also excited for this tool to use during the summer when instructors might not be available.

4.1.1 Epps – On the template – if something doesn't apply can you delete sections or add sections?

Flora – it's just a word document you can change it.

Roach – it's flexible.

Epps – What if there are multiple sections?

Flora and Roach (in dialogue with Epps) – Syllabi are listed by section, so if there are multiple instructors each will have their own syllabus listed if it has been shared. If a person is teaching a class for the first time, there will not be a "yes" in the syllabus column for that section of the course. If someone has changed something in their course (a new textbook for example) and haven't uploaded the most current version of their syllabus, that information will not be available. However, there is a disclaimer at the top of the page indicating that syllabi might not represent requirements for the current semester.

4.1.2 Hemphill, J. – Are these all considered accessible?

Roach – Not necessarily. We can't check each one to see if it is accessible and they don't want to change anything that faculty created, but there is a disclaimer that students can request an accessible version from the instructor.

Cherry - Is the template accessible?



DISCUSSIONS

Flora – yes – it has been checked.

Epps – aren't we supposed to have all of our documents accessible.

Flora – That would be nice, but right now we just want to get syllabi entered and then refine as we move forward.

Roach – the current catalog description isn't descriptive enough for students, so this effort will give the students more information.

4.1.3 Garris - We submit our syllabi to our Department Chair / Secretary. Is this the CHANNEL through which we are to send your office our syllabi?

Flora/Roach – Yes

4.1.4 Funk - In our department we are already posting the syllabus for each class in D2L and on the S-Drive. It would be nice if there could be a link from either of these to Goldlink. That way it would be updated at the top of each semester.

Roach – That would be nice but it isn't possible.

4.1.5 Lyons – This is great for the students and for the ETSU community. I'm concerned about fringe groups (that are attacking public education) getting access to these. Do you have anything to say about that?

Flora – I agree that we in education have been attacked, but students can already share syllabi and tests and the idea of keeping information safe is impractical, but this does live inside Banner which has limited access, so unless you are in our Banner system you can't see them.

Roach – If you provide your students with a syllabus there is nothing you can do to stop the students from sharing. The easier it is for students to access the information the less likely they are to go out of their way to share it.

Silver – I see this in a broad sweep in a decades long effort to commodify university faculty. Historically, faculty have had a big role in governance and deciding in their subject matter expertise and that of their colleagues, what's in the curriculum. This, in one fail swoop will not undo the role of faculty in control of curriculum. It is a part of a process that began many years ago. In my second year here, we got a new administrator and this administrator sent out an email suggesting we pay for a vendor to "capture" lectures. If we are to teach on the internet we can be told that and we can prepare for that. I have seen this going on slowly and not so subtly. How many of you have heard that the syllabus is a contract? For this grandiose day in the sky when a student is going to sue us? Give me a break. Administrative P&T committee has been told that our letters are legal documents – you should be very afraid, you should be afraid to do the normal work of a faculty member and rule on your colleague's promotion and tenure qualifications. It's an administrative process not a legal document. So, we're not looking for perfection, Bill. It doesn't have to be totally protected and it doesn't have to be a fringe group. Could a researcher from the Heritage Foundation sign up for three credits to get access to this whole thing and find out who (faculty) is occasionally quoted in the newspaper for public service or advocacy reasons? They could pour over syllabi and see who thinks labor history is important to occupational health, or who in social sciences teaches a little bit of Marx, who requires Cornell West essays to be read? I think Dr. Lyons had a very serious concern, it's not limited to fringe groups, the governor, the Board of Trustees who don't have any expertise in higher ed. Except for Dr. Foley, could line up to purge critical thinkers with politically incorrect, in their view, from school? You are making it much more efficient than one student who can trade or post or share exams – you're serving us up! So what I would like to see are written guarantees that there's not going to be a template required. I would like written guarantees that other checks are in place because your word, at this



DISCUSSIONS

stage, is going to get swept away by this decades-long process of working tenured, independent, critically thinking faculty into the background.

Flora – Thank you. We will definitely look into ways to ensure that the template is not required and that that stands out.

Silver – And when I die or retire does my syllabus remain in there until the first adjunct teaches it? And then the next adjunct who teaches it? What's the post-ETSU lifetime of these parts of my intellectual property?

Lyons – It's important to consider this. Does a student have a right to share these things out into the world? All of us as stakeholders at ETSU should be thinking about this, including legal counsel.

Flora – those are good points. Thanks for sharing and we will consult with legal.

4.1.6 Byington – should syllabi be copyrighted?

Flora – I'll take that to legal as well.

4.1.7 Mackara – I want to echo what Dr. Silver said. When SAIs were first brought out faculty were told that they are only for faculty, no one else will see it, and we know how long that lasted. These things can be weaponized and Dr. Silver's comments should be taken seriously.

Silver – In my second year I was asked to contribute to the Pharmacy school but I sent a polite email citing evidence that the average TennCare recipient was receiving an average of 10 medications and that he would not be contributing.

5. Approval of Minutes

Hendrix questioned whether there was an objection to approving the minutes from the 09/28/2020 meeting.

No Objection: Minutes Approved

6. Information Items

6.1 Handbook Committee – no update

6.2 Board of Trustees – no update

6.3 T&P Working Group Report – no update

6.4 University Committee Reports:

6.4.1 Hendrix – University Council – Dr. King was appreciative of our resolution honoring ATS and ITS. The Spring 2021 academic calendar was presented by Dr. Bishop. There are four options for Spring Calendar which were presented to Dr. Noland who shared them with Senate Executive Committee. University Council informally voted to accept option 4 which would be a regular schedule but instead of a single Spring Break, those 5 days of break would be spread throughout the semester. Final decision is upcoming.

Collins – Was the intent of not having a Spring Break to discourage students from traveling and bringing something back?

Hendrix – Yes

Peterson – Did they take into consideration the number of individual days of the week?



DISCUSSIONS

Hendrix – Yes there would be a Monday - Tuesday break, a Thursday-Friday break, and a Wednesday break to spread them out.

Foley – Those impacts are available on the website for University Council, and they did consider it.

McGarry – Can we be assured that the calendar won't be changed at the last minute?

Hendrix – Yes, the breaks as described will be the breaks for the Spring. This isn't like the mental health days in the Fall.

6.4.2 Garris – GEAC – The GRC made recommendations last Spring which are being taken under consideration. At the moment the GEAC is taking a step back and reviewing their charge and taking another look at the membership and that any changes have been talked through and vetted to see if departments that are going to be most impacted have input. There has been a soft re-set and there are currently no changes pending, and we'll see where the process finds itself in a year or two.

6.4.3 Hemphill, J. – QESC committee – One issue that has come up that faculty should be aware of is how are quality of certificate programs evaluated in higher education, particularly at ETSU? There is a push for certificates, however there is concern that we are turning ourselves into a continuing education university and that not every degree has to be monetized. This is just for awareness but if anyone has ideas, please let me know.

6.4.4 Peterson – Research Advisory Committee – no update.

7. Action Items

7.1 Motion to approve revised bylaw language on filling vacancies on executive committee. [see attached] Moved by Epps, Second Cherry,

7.1.1 Peterson – I move to amend by making the changes marked on the document in blue. [see attached] Second by Byington.

Justification – this would allow people to fill vacancies whose schedules might prevent them from meeting particular meeting obligations of that office while the President could still appoint someone to replace that officer.

Amendment Approved 44-1

Main Motion Approved 45-1

8. New Business

9. Old Business

10. Comments from Guests

11. Adjourn



DISCUSSIONS

Motion to Adjourn: Brown
Second: Johnson, M
Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Senator Ashley Sergiadis (sergiadis@etsu.edu, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2020-2021) of any changes or corrections to the minutes.