FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021  
3:30 PM VIA ZOOM  
https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/91683509982

AGENDA
Shawn Spurgeon, President  
Millie Gimmel, Secretary  
Ernest Bernard, Parliamentarian  
Robert Spirko, Communications Officer

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM (E. Bernard)

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Aaron, Douglas; Benjamin, Stefanie; Cimino, Chris; Cuevas, Frank; Neisler, Gretchen; Olsson, Tore; Paddison, Stephen; Parigger, Chris; Schaeffer, Sean; Sorensen, Soren; Taylor, Adam; Williams, James; Yu, Edward. There were no alternates attending.

CALL TO ORDER at 15:33

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Approval of Minutes
Undergraduate Council Minutes – April 13, 2021
Test Optional Pilot Program (F. D’Aloisio)

Discussion: C. Kojima reviewed the undergraduate council minutes. The council passed a number of proposals. There was a special meeting about having a test optional policy (ACT and SAT) for new applicants. F. D’Aloisio discussed the pilot program for the test optional program. This will be a five-year program. Many institutions have moved to this test optional form of admissions, in part because of the pandemic and in part because it has been hard for students to take the test this year. For the 2021-22 school year 30% of students who applied did not take a national test and 28% of those accepted admission. This has led to an increased number of minority students and students from a diversity of backgrounds. UT will need to monitor the success of these students throughout their degree program and assess if test optional admission benefits everyone. With a five-year pilot there will be enough good data to see if this is a viable program.

M. Black asked about dropping the contemporary issues and solutions item from gen ed. C. Kojima explained that this came from the curriculum committee since it is separate from VolCore. There were some proposals for this category but they were never evaluated. This may be resuscitated in the future but the category of gen ed will not be ready for fall 2022. Senator Black expressed that there was never leadership on the committee and to drop this because of lack of faculty participation is disturbing.

The actions of the minutes were approved: 71 In favor, 2 Against and 10 abstaining.

Graduate Council Minutes – March 25, 2021

Discussion: Senator Broemmel reviewed that there was only one voting item and it was on improving the procedures on grade appeals.

The actions of the minutes were approved: 75 In favor; 1 against; 10 abstaining

Consent Agenda – Committee Reports (click here)
Discussion: President Spurgeon encourages everyone to read the committee reports to understand what has been happening this year. A lot of important work has happened, even in the face of the double pandemic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President’s Report (S. Spurgeon)
The president thanks everyone for their work. The summer will mark the transition of the leadership team. There has been a delay in the election process but ballots should go out in the next day or so. After new senators are elected all senators will receive a survey about the kinds of committee work that are available. Senator Spurgeon appreciates the support and feedback from the senate. He thanks Brooke Killion and Sharonne Winston for all their work behind the scenes. The year would have been impossible without them. He thanks Gary Skolits for his support, institutional knowledge and wisdom. He thanks the committee chairs for their extra effort to make their committees work and thrive. He thanks the caucus chairs for their flexibility and patience. He thanks the administration for their support and efforts and willingness to
The resolution passed.
The senate voted 70 to approve that the increase not come from his office. The resolution is just national searches.
M. McAlpin asked about the clause on requiring exceptions. She says this has never come up. Budget cuts have eliminated the possibility of national searches in some departments so unless there is stability in hiring, this may be an impossible task. M. Stanley responded that this resolution is just one of many places where we need to address some of these systemic issues. The Provost clarified that any budget cuts do not come from his office. No college budgets were cut but there were no increases. Dean Lee clarified that there were additional funds for the large incoming class that are not recurring. By raising base salaries there is less money available for hires in the fall. Provost Zomchick says that the increased salaries were added to the base budgets. Minor changes were made to the resolution to increase inclusivity.

The senate voted 76 to approve; 0 against; 4 abstaining.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

OLD BUSINESS
Resolution on NTT Diversity Issues (click here)
Discussion: J. Anderson reviewed the resolution on inclusive hiring of NTT faculty.

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The senate voted 70 to approve the resolution; 2 against; and 11 abstaining.

The resolution passed.

NEW BUSINESS
Faculty Senate President-Elect Election
Candidates introduced themselves.

Faculty Senate President Election
Louis Gross Statement and Bio (click here)

L. Gross introduced himself.

The results of the votes will be released a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT at 17:05**

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