

## Faculty Senate Minutes

September 9, 2002

### Introductions

Pat Brown, Faculty Senate President, introduced herself and RSCC President Dr. Wade McCamey, and then asked each of the 24 senators and alternates to introduce themselves.

In attendance were:

<u>Math Science</u>	<u>Humanities</u>	<u>Health Science &amp; Nursing</u>
Pat Bailey	Peggy Hilliard	Patricia Crotty
Jeff Sexton	Bryan Wilkerson	Rodney Byrd
Jim Condon	Robert Alfonso	Bill West
Arthur Lee	Wanda Manning	Sally Licata
Pam Siergiej	Richard Baskin	
Betty Denison		
<u>Business &amp; Technology</u>	<u>Social Science</u>	<u>Library</u>
George Meghabghab	Don Lanza	Robert Bensen
Gloria Drake	Scott Teeter	
David Puckett	Jim Doyle	
Delores Barnes	Misty Griffin	
Betty Glenn		

### Dr. McCamey

Dr. McCamey discussed three issues:

1. He stated that although the 102d General Assembly's legislative intent to raise state employees' wages across-the-board by 3 percent in January did not include higher education employees, Roane State's 7½ percent increase in new revenue from raising tuition would be used to retain faculty. However, the Chancellor will not allow more than a total 6 percent raise, so Roane State will allot a
  - 3 percent raise to those in the salary equity plan retroactive to July (bringing the salary equity plan to 52 percent of completion) and
  - 3 percent across-the-board raise in January.

There was some concern voiced by senators Denison, Glenn, Puckett, and others that the salary equity plan was falling behind the expected schedule and that the inequality will become worse.

2. Dr. McCamey then responded to Betty Denison's concern that while programs like Environment Health and other academic programs were being reviewed for lack of graduating students per funding, athletic programs were not reviewed. Dr. McCamey assured the Senate that our athletic programs were being run on a "shoestring" and that, although the wage increases would affect next year's budget, the athletic program was at the bottom of RSCC expenditures – it does not bring other programs down. He said the athletic program "stands on its own compared to academic programs when you compare the number of students involved."
3. The third issue concerned the Faculty Senate's recommendation for an Emeritus Faculty policy. Dr. McCamey said he would sign it as soon as he got it, or "before the sun went down."

## **Senate V.P. Election**

Robert Alfonso ran unopposed for the Faculty Senate Vice President position. Betty Denison made the motion to elect Robert by acclamation, Richard Baskin seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Because Robert is now an officer, Humanities needed another senator and the Senate promoted Wanda Manning from alternate to senator. However, now Humanities will need to elect another alternate.

## **Academic Council Representatives**

The following senators volunteered to serve on the Academic Council:

Pat Brown	Math Science
Gloria Drake	Business & Technology
Richard Baskin	Humanities
Jim Doyle	Social Science

## **Promotion & Tenure Committee Appointments**

The following senators volunteered to have their names submitted for possible duty on the Promotion & Tenure Committee:

Jeff Sexton	Math Science
Peggy Hilliard	Humanities
Rodney Byrd	Health Science
David Puckett	Business & Technology

## **Sub-Council Report**

Betty Denison reported on issues concerning the Faculty Sub-Council, which she said is comprised of one member from each TBR school, each having one vote, that meets with the Chancellor or Vice Chancellor and other decision makers to vote on action items.

Currently the Sub-Council issues include the following:

- Common Calendar: Sub-Council agreed upon a Common Calendar for fall and spring semesters, but leaving institutions free to determine their own summer sessions.
- Funding Formula: Sub-Council is analyzing the current formula for funding.
- Adjunct Health Insurance: Sub-Council is looking into offering an Adjunct health insurance across the state to obtain a lower rate.
- New Programs: Sub-Council is streamlining the process for adding new programs.
- SAC and RODP: The SAC site visits of RODP programs will be held in Middle Tennessee schools, not at RSCC.
- Athletic Program Review: Sub-Council is considering the issue mentioned earlier of funding but not reviewing athletic programs that might not be producing graduates when academic programs are reviewed. Misty Griffin stated that the Roane State girls' basketball programs graduates 80 percent of its students.

## **Tennessee Board of Regents Philosophy of General Education**

Senators reviewed the TBR document mandating transfer student programs, including 60-hour degrees. The Senate agreed to review this document and email each other their concerns and that the next meeting would focus on this issue.

## **Scholarships and Financial Aid Students**

Delores Barnes brought up the issue that students are not able to buy their books in time for their first class because they have to wait for financial aid until faculty report their attendance in that class. Don Lanza responded that the suggestion to withhold funds until the students reported to class was submitted at one time but that the deans voted it down.

## **Emeritus Faculty Policy**

Last week the Faculty Senate voted 23 – 1 to recommend the establishment of a policy that would allow faculty to nominate a deserving faculty member to the status of Emeritus. The policy was passed this morning. However, there were some concerns voiced:

1. The policy was passed through the Senate without discussion.
2. The phrase “*resigned from the institution*” should be used instead of “*retired from the institution.*”
3. The 10-Year minimum should be 20 years.
4. Majority should be changed to two-thirds majority.

Pat Brown said she passed these and other concerns on to Pat Land who promised to look into it this coming year.

## **Senate Constitution Contradictions**

The constitution as stated on the Faculty Senate web page states that the Faculty Senate would appoint 4 senators to Academic Council – the Faculty Senate president, and one from each of the 3 divisions. Since we now have 5 divisions, we should change the constitution one of two ways:

1. To send 5 senators to Academic Council to reflect the number of divisions
2. Delete the sentence, “Each academic division should be represented.”

Pat Brown agreed to talk to Pat Land about this issue

## **Grade Inflation – Truth or Myth**

Delores Barnes brought up the question, “Does Roane State inflate grades?” Pat Bailey remembered that the Institutional Research department did a statistical study on this issue a while back, so after some discussion, the Senate agreed to ask Institutional Research to report on this study and then the Senate could decide further action.

## **Schedule Future Meetings**

Because of the heavy turnout, Pat Brown decided that Monday at 3:30 is a good time, but that the meeting will alternate between main campus and Oak Ridge and that we will not meet in the Idea Room. Therefore, the next meeting will be in Oak Ridge, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. The agenda will be primarily to draft a formal response of Roane State’s concerns regarding the TBR Philosophy of General Education.

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Submitted September 9, 2002  
Betty Glenn, Secretary