

Roane State Community College Faculty Senate
Minutes for January 29th, 2021 Meeting at 2:00 Eastern
Zoom Meeting ID: 964 0268 7812

Attendees:

Deborah Miles, President	Valerie Herd	Pam Siergiej
Susan Sain, Vice President	Melanie Hildebrandt	Steve Ward
Gary Gravely, Secretary	April Insko	Elizabeth Weaver
Steven Carriger, Parliamentarian	Jerri Kiser	Victoria Findlay, alt.
John Brown, TBR Faculty Sub-Council Rep.	Elizabeth Lewis	Monica Boles, visitor
Casey Cobb	Marianna Mabry	Brenda Luggie, visitor
Jala Daniel	Jillian Miller	John Noto, visitor
Michael Golebiewski	Vickie Pierce	Saeed Rahmanian, visitor
Geol Greenlee	Abigail Schoolfield	Ted Stryk, visitor
	Bill Schramm	Lyndy Wibking, visitor

- I. Established Quorum at 2:01 pm.
- II. Approved December 4th, 2020 Faculty Senate Minutes by voice vote.
- III. TBR Faculty Sub-Council Updates – Next Meeting 2/5/2021
 - A. No meeting over Christmas break. Next meeting will be February 5.
- IV. Vice President's Report – Sue Sain
 - A. Changes have been approved to Benroth eligibility.
 - B. Changes have been uploaded to Faculty Senate website.
 - C. Preliminary lists of eligible nominees have been sent out to Divisions.
- V. President's Report
 - A. Work Group Updates
 1. Adjunct Representation on Senate – Jala Daniel and Geol Greenlee
 - a. Drafted a statement. Looked at statement for Walters State and Pellissippi State statements. Looked at ideas listed in the Google doc.
 - b. How many adjuncts should be represented? One per division is what the proposed statement allows.
 - c. How will adjuncts be notified about possible representation?
 - d. How many hours should an adjunct teach in order to be eligible to be a representative? How much Roane State experience is needed?
 - e. A question was asked if adjuncts should be required to be hired for three consecutive semesters since gaps can sometimes be created by lack of classes available.

- f. A question was asked if anyone knew which divisions had the greatest number of adjunct instructors. Answer was unknown.
- g. A question was asked regarding whether adjuncts communicate enough to be able to nominate a chair. Response was that representatives should communicate with one another once they have made the committee to serve.
- h. A question was asked regarding what happens when a representative does not have a class that semester for them to be employed by Roane State. A solution was provided that there should be a statement regarding replacement should a representative be ineligible to serve for this reason.
- i. A question was asked about how much adjunct representation be allowed. Should there be a chair? Or one vote per division?
- j. A question was asked about whether an adjunct could serve on the Faculty Senate of more than one community college. Response was given that not enough nearby community colleges allow for Faculty Senate representation for this to be a concern right now.
- k. A concern was expressed that with the workloads of adjunct instructors about whether having four adjunct members of Faculty Senate could create difficulties regarding attaining a quorum. A response was given that as the position is voluntary that adjunct member attendance shouldn't be a concern.
- l. Another concern was raised regarding how well adjuncts know the issues of the college. A response was made that this is an argument for experience at the college.
- m. A proposal was made that perhaps voting representation could rotate between the four representatives since we typically have 4-5 meetings per semester.
- n. Work Group was asked to take a look at the comments from this session and send the FS President any issues they felt needed a vote or more discussion.

B. Old Business

1. 2020-2021 Syllabus Template and Benroth Procedures have been approved and updated on FS webpage.
2. 2021 Faculty Senate Election Report
 - a. Election Committee – Deborah (chair), Steve C. (co-chair) Sue, John, Gary
 - b. Nominations for President and Vice-President: February 22nd – 26th
 - c. Online election platform to be chosen

d. Election (Last Thursday in March): March 25th 8 am – 8 pm Eastern

3. Conflict of Interest Clause for FS Constitution

a. January 11th Vote: 14 (61%) in favor; 9 (39%) opposed

b. Discussion

- i. Faculty Senate President wanted to continue discussion since 61% expressed majority support, though not enough to amend the Constitution, and therefore more discussion she believed was warranted.
- ii. Faculty Senate President read six statements that had been sent to her that supported the Conflict of Interest Clause proposed. She wanted to submit these statements in the meeting to illustrate that such statements had been sent to her.
- iii. Discussion began amongst Faculty Senate members.
- iv. A comment was made that a Conflict of Interest Clause was not an accusation that wrongdoing had occurred, but to prevent it from occurring.
- v. A motion was made to vote again on approving the Conflict of Interest Clause in the exact way that it was stated for the January 11 vote with the understanding that this vote be the finalization on the clause as currently written. Motion was seconded.
- vi. Discussion began about the motion.
- vii. A question was made whether what is discussed in the Faculty Senate meetings is transparent to administrators already. A response was made that Faculty Senate minutes are posted, but are written in a way that anonymity of specific comments can exist.
- viii. A comment was made that the Conflict of Interest would exclude people (relatives of administration) whereas the problem is currently an accusation of exclusion (non-tenured faculty self-censoring or refraining from being a part of Faculty Senate). A response was made that the clause is not an accusation, but a preventative.
- ix. A comment was made that the wording of the clause comes from Tennessee Code and Roane State's Nepotism Policy.
- x. A comment was made that no one has accused a Faculty Senate member of sharing information with a relative, but it is because of the fear that it could

occur. And a question was raised about where to draw the line if a relationship could prevent a Faculty Senate member from serving.

- xi. A comment was made that the clause was not of a personal nature, but one of creating a culture of representation.
 - xii. A comment was made that this was an inappropriate time to have a vote.
 - xiii. A comment was made by Parliamentarian that according to Roberts' Rules a motion must be made to reconsider by someone who voted in the majority. A response was made that a motion had already occurred from someone who voted in the majority.
 - xiv. A comment was made that based on experience at different meetings that conversation is more open when administration is not present.
 - xv. A comment was made regarding whether the votes could end up being continual. Faculty Senate President stated that the item would not appear again on the agenda while she is President.
 - xvi. Vote did not achieve 2/3 approval. 13 Yes, 10 No.
4. Update: President Whaley's Response to Faculty Senate Resolutions- Table Until February Meeting
5. Update: Employee Satisfaction Survey Timeline – Table Until February

VI. Adjourned at 3:31 PM.