

Roane State Community College
Faculty Senate Minutes
29 September 2023 – 2:00 PM ET
Harriman Campus – O’Brien 101

Attendance

Officers

Jala Daniel	President
David Blevins	Vice-President
April Insko	Past President
Krystie Anderson	Secretary and Senator
John Brown	Parliamentarian and Senator
Turner Bowling	TBR Faculty Sub-Council Representative and Senator

Visitor

Heather Doncaster	Library
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Senators

Health Sciences

Heather Gregg; Gabriel McAteer; Bret McElroy; Ricky Terwilliger; Elizabeth Thomas; Elliot Mitzelfeld, Adjunct Representative

Humanities

Krystie Anderson; Maggie Bouldin; Turner Bowling; Jayme Nair; Ted Stryk

Math and Science

Isabel Benitez-Ramirez; Stefanie Holmes; Jillian Miller; John Noto; Pamela Siergiej; Scott Jamison, Adjunct Representative

Social Science, Business, and Education

John Brown; Elizabeth Lewis; Darren York; HR Anderson, Alternate for Dave Rath

- I. Established quorum at 2:00 PM ET.
- II. Approved April 14, 2023, Faculty Senate Minutes.
- III. TBR Faculty Sub-Council Update (from Turner Bowling)
 - a. In the most recent meeting, they discussed the following topics:
 - Revisions to Learning Support Policy
 - Revisions to Early Post-Secondary Opportunities Policy
 - Revisions to Approval of Academic Programs, Units, and Modification Policy
 - Announcement of Regional HIP Drive-In events
 - Statement on recent changes to Affirmative Action
- IV. VP’s Report (from David Blevins)

- a. Faculty and Staff Relief Fund
 - i. Still an ongoing conversation.
 - b. Tuition for Adjuncts to Take Classes
 - i. Current language does not allow for adjuncts and temporary part-time faculty to take courses at discounted rates.
 - ii. Tennessee’s Senate has introduced a bill that deletes this exclusion. [TBR’s policy](#) still has the old language. David is following up with RSCC administration to find out if we’ll update our policy in accordance with the new legislation.
- V. President’s Report
- a. Old Business
 - i. Benroth Update – Tax Form
 - 1. Jala heard from Scott Niermann that the \$1000 award will now be taxed, so Roane State is hoping to increase the award to make up for this financial loss to the recipient.
 - ii. Mentor Responsibilities Form – Update
 - 1. The form is still undergoing revision.
 - iii. Form E2 – Update
 - 1. Roane State’s Administration liked the proposed form but suggested that the faculty be able to write about themselves on the second page (instead of the faculty member’s mentor writing about the mentee).
 - b. New Business
 - i. Confirm voting member of Adjunct Faculty Senate Committee
 - 1. Scott Jamison volunteered to take on this position.
 - ii. Promotion and Tenure Committee Appointments
 - 1. Athena Baranowski (Math Sciences)
 - a. Note: Jala Daniel will serve as ex-officio.
 - 2. April Insko (Health Sciences)
 - 3. Ted Stryk (Humanities)
 - 4. John Brown (Social Sciences)
 - 5. Jala nominated Pam Siergie and Turner Bowling for President Whaley’s Hearing Committee.
 - iii. Approved Policies
 - 1. PA-22-01: Academic Tenure
 - a. New category: Professionalism
 - 2. PA-26-02: [Faculty Evaluation](#)
 - a. No policy changes, only grammatical ones.
 - 3. AA-25-01: [English Language Learners](#)
 - a. No policy changes, only grammatical ones.
 - 4. AA-21-01: [Distance Education](#)
 - a. No policy changes, only grammatical ones.

- iv. Policies in Process
 - 1. PA-26-01: Faculty Promotion
 - a. Currently under review.
- v. New Approved Form E
 - 1. (See above section for updates about this form.)
- vi. TBR General Education Dynamic Core Model (Gen. Ed. Courses)
 - 1. Jala explained the pros and cons of the dynamic model versus our current model. The benefit of changing to the Dynamic Model would allow students to complete their degree path easier and faster, which would help improve graduation rates. The drawback of changing to the Dynamic Model would be limited enrollment in second-semester courses. (See **Appendix A** for a side-by-side comparison of both models, as well as explanatory notes.)
 - 2. Discussion: Several Senators expressed concern about what will happen if we move to the Dynamic Model.
 - a. Are we shortchanging our students on a general education that will prepare them for future classes, careers, and their life experiences?
 - b. How will students be able to build on knowledge, make connections, and strengthen their learning? There's value in a general education in that each class teaches students different ways to think and problem-solve.
 - c. Students need to be able to handle difficult subjects and material; this is a valuable skill to have for college, career, and life.
 - 3. The General Education Committee is the group that will advise Diane Raines, who chairs the Gen. Ed. Committee, on what vote to cast on October 20, 2023. All Roane State faculty are encouraged to voice their opinion on this issue by contacting their colleagues on the General Education Committee.
- vii. Pharmacy Technology Certificate Program
 - 1. President Whaley and Dr. Ward have recommended the deletion of the program, as we continue to experience declining and low enrollment rates. (The enrollment has been in the single digits since 2013.)
 - 2. Recruitment efforts for Health Sciences programs need to be stronger and more efficient, as students attempt to join these programs during the summer months, and the college doesn't currently have anyone who monitors these communications during that time.
 - 3. Comments about this topic:
 - a. Someone asked if Roane State would be on the hook, so to speak, in paying back finances for the McNally Lab at the Oak Ridge campus.
 - b. Someone else asked what will happen to faculty members whose programs are ended due to declining/low enrollment.

- Jala read from Roane State's Tenure Policy to help provide clarification of what will happen.
- c. Someone questioned whether we could work on building enrollment in this program and keeping it for one more year.
 - d. A motion was approved to recommend that President Whaley consider allowing the program to run for one more year.
- viii. Received Emails from the Faculty Senate Inbox
1. Air Conditioning and Heating Issues at the Harriman Campus
 - a. Dunbar has obsolete parts, but new ones are coming, so the college can update the HVAC systems.
 - b. Yaeger, the Library, and O'Brien: These buildings follow a schedule for temperature changes. The system requires downtime to be reset, so the college does this on the weekends.
 - c. Faculty have been instructed to call or email the Physical Plant if events are planned during scheduled HVAC downtime.
 2. CTAT's Office Hours
 - a. Students have been sent to CTAT's office for help, but because the CTAT staff are working from home, there's nobody to help them in-person.
 3. Updated Policy Regarding Mass Emails
 - a. Who do people contact if they need to have an email sent to the Faculty, Staff, and Students email groups?
 - b. If Sarah Self, who sends Public Relations emails, is out of the office, Diane Ward is the next-in-line to contact if anyone needs to send a mass email.
 4. Faculty Qualifications Manual ([Policy PA-27-01](#))
 - a. Someone checked this document recently and found the wording to be unclear.
 - b. Each department is encouraged to review their respective sections.
- ix. Oak Ridge Campus Daycare Facility
1. John Brown heard from someone in his division about this topic and will provide more information at next month's Faculty Senate meeting.

x. Future Items for Consideration

1. ELL Students
2. Course-embedded textbooks and the related opt-out process
3. Oak Ridge Daycare
4. Required course evaluations for tenured faculty

VI. Adjourned at 3:28 PM ET.

Appendix A: General Education Models: Current and Dynamic

Credit Hours and Course Requirements

The Current Model of the General Education core courses includes the following: 9 hours of Communication; 9 hours of Humanities with 3 hours being Literature; 6 hours of Social/Behavioral Sciences; 6 hours of History; 8 hours of Natural Sciences; and 3 hours of Mathematics.

The Dynamic Model of the General Education core courses includes the following: 9 hours of Communication; 3 hours of Humanities; 3 hours of Literature; 3 hours of Social/Behavioral Sciences; 3 hours of History; 4 hours of Natural Sciences; 3 hours of Mathematics; and 13 hours of General Education core course electives.

Points to Consider when Comparing the Current and Dynamic Models

- There is no change in the number of General Education requirements, as both the current and dynamic models require 41 hours of General Education courses.
- The current model is very prescriptive with what General Education courses are required, whereas the dynamic model will allow students flexibility with 13 hours of General Education courses. (For example, a Humanities based student would be permitted to use the 13 hours of electives to take more Humanities courses, and the same goes for Math, Science, History, and Social/Behavioral Sciences based students.)
- The six universities in Tennessee are no longer part of the TBR system, so they all have independent governing boards that determine the curriculum requirements for degrees.
- Some students are transferring to four-year universities without associate degrees -if the university does not require the same prescribed 41 hours of General Education courses as our current model does. Part of our performance funding is based on enrollment and graduation rate.
- We do have students who change their majors and/or schools that they are transferring to -and both the current and dynamic models have advantages and disadvantages for these students.
- If universities are adopting something similar to the dynamic model, if we were to do the same it might make transferability easier and more aligned if students know what they want to do when they first walk in our doors.
- We also need to consider if our students are capable of choosing the best of so many options or if they will choose the “easiest” classes, thus causing the enrollment in the easier General Education courses to skyrocket and enrollment in the harder General Education courses to decline.