

Roane State Community College
Faculty Senate Minutes
October 20, 2023 – 2:00-3:30 (Eastern)
Oak Ridge Campus – Coffey McNally, City Room

ATTENDANCE

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

Visitors	Division
Vickie Hensley	Health Sciences
Justin Eastwood	Library
Matthew McDonald	Humanities

Health Sciences Division

Senators: Gabriel McAteer; Ricky Terwilliger; Elizabeth Thomas
Adjunct Representative: Elliott Mitzelfeld

Humanities Division

Senators: Krystie Anderson; Jayme Nair; Ted Stryk; Brenda Luggie (alt. for Maggie Bouldin)

Math and Science Division

Senators: Isabel Benitez-Ramirez; Stefanie Holmes; Jillian Miller; John Noto; Pamela Siergiej

Social Science, Business, and Education Division

Senators: Valerie Herd; Elizabeth Lewis; Dave Rath; Darren York

MINUTES

- I. Established Quorum at 2:02 PM ET.
- II. Approved Faculty Senate Minutes from September 29, 2023.
- III. TBR Faculty Sub-Council Update from Turner Bowling
 - i. No updates as of today's meeting, as they don't meet until next week.
- IV. Vice President's Report from David Blevins
 - i. Tuition for Adjunct Faculty
 - a. No significant updates to report as of today's meeting.
 - ii. Faculty and Staff Relief Fund
 - a. No significant updates to report as of today's meeting.
- V. President's Report
 - A. Old Business
 - i. Form E2/Mentor Responsibilities
 - a. No updates as of today's meeting.
 - ii. Advanced Pharmacology Technology
 - Jala sent a letter to President Whaley and Dr. Ward, requesting that this program be extended for another year for reasons stated in the September session.
 - Additionally, Jala has informed Dr. Ward about grievances from faculty within Allied Health who do not feel supported by the college. Dr. Ward wants to follow up on these concerns, so she asked Jala to collect specific comments from faculty. Jala will follow up with Allied Health faculty to collect concerns.
 - April initiated discussion as to what could happen to faculty whose programs are terminated, as they would lose their tenure and possibly their retirement benefits. Currently, TBR's policy terminates a program *and* the faculty member's tenure. Someone suggested that this policy needs to be reviewed, as there is a recourse in place for tenure-track faculty who do not receive tenure.
 - It was suggested that Marianna Mabry be relocated to another position within the college.
 - iii. Required Course Evaluations
 - There's nothing else to discuss regarding this issue, as the change was discussed at length during Spring 2023. Dr. Ward came to Faculty Senate last year to address questions and concerns, as well as answer questions about this new policy. There is still concern that faculty are losing morale and confidence in the administration due to this change in policy.

B. New Business

- i. Oak Ridge Daycare Facility
 - a. We would need a Department of Human Services license, funding, and space to accommodate a daycare facility. The one at Pellissippi is grant-funded and is only licensed for twelve students. Square footage, meals, child-sized furnishing, operating hours, and costs are some of the other factors we would need to consider. Saundra Stiles is not in support of a daycare facility for reasons explained above. It has already been discussed with the administration as to why this is not feasible.
- ii. ELL (English Language Learner) Students
 - a. Several in attendance mentioned that they, too, are getting more students whose first language is not English, and they, too, have reached out to the Learning Center for possible resources.
 - b. Roane State should be following its policy for English Language Learners, [AA-25-01](#), which is also a [TBR policy](#).
- iii. Course embedded texts and the related opt-out process
 - a. This semester, several Humanities 1010 students experienced multiple issues with the course-embedded textbook: dramatic price increase; different opt-out dates given; inability to opt out without incurring late fees; being charged multiple times for the course-embedded textbook, even after opting out of it.
- iv. Student Academic Services – Spring 2023 Graduation Feedback and Academic Calendars
 - a. Friday, March 22, 204 will be this spring's [Academic Festival](#).
 - b. Because Academic Festival is back and is required for everyone, the Spring 2025 calendar is being reworked, as this means that faculty's report-back date will be adjusted accordingly.
- v. Approved Policies
 - a. None, as of today's meeting.
- vi. Policies in Process
 - a. [PA-26-01](#) Faculty Promotion
- vii. Recent Email from the Faculty Senate Inbox
 - a. There's a need to discuss with the head of campus security the timing of "unplanned" drills. What has happened to the drill schedule we used to get at the start of every semester (tornado, fire, and lockdown)? Dr. Ward has said that all drills are now unannounced, but faculty didn't know about this change. Could drills be called off for the weeks before and after mid-term?

- i. Someone mentioned studies that show that students perform worse on tests when they've been interrupted by a drill, then attempt to finish a test.
- ii. Someone commented that instructors who teach synchronous classes experience issues when each campus has drills at different times.
- iii. Three in attendance commented on the issues with the campus PA systems at Loudon and Campbell (it's hard to hear the announcements).

viii. Future Items for Consideration

- A. Jala Daniel gave us an update on Arthur Lee, former Professor of Geology.
 - His mother's art is currently on display in the art gallery at the Harriman Campus. Dr. Ward requested that faculty view the art after the Spring 2024 Convocation, as that's the last day of the display. No meetings will be scheduled after Convocation, so faculty will be able to visit the art gallery.
- B. Stephanie Holmes gave everyone an update about the upcoming changes to the Learning Support courses.
 - TBR has changed the Learning Support policies for English and Math. We will no longer be allowed to pair Learning Support courses with non-learning support courses.
 - Students will no longer be able to pass the non-learning support class if they don't also pass the learning support class.
 - TBR's website is already reflecting this update, but it doesn't go into effect until Fall of 2024.
- C. Jala updated us about Nancy Hamilton's work with the Leadership Academy.
 - Nancy has requested that those in Faculty Senate also show support for the Leadership Academy. The financial request of \$5,100 was not approved this year due to lack of funds.
 - i. David Blevins provide more information about this program. Roane State used to have a Leadership Program for faculty and staff, and it helped everyone who participated make connections with others they work with, as well as those within the state, which is why Nancy Hamilton saw a need to get this program going again.

- Several asked whether faculty's Professional Development money could be used to help programs such as this one. A follow-up question was what happens to faculty members' unused money (the \$1000 each faculty member receives every three years).
 - i. A motion was proposed for Faculty Senate to support Nancy Hamilton's efforts to fund this program.

D. Hidden Fees

- Are students made aware of the extra fees and charges that they'll experience at Roane State? Which classes have these? Are these published on the course descriptions? Examples: Students being charged for international travel, even if they don't participate in the travel; Students being charged a musical instrument fee, even if they're not renting/using an instrument, such as in an online Music Appreciation fee.

E. Success Coaches

- Faculty are hearing complaints from students about success coaches' lack of availability and/or responsiveness.
 - i. How are success coaches evaluated?
 - ii. Some faculty want to give informal evaluations to their students to ask whether they have a faculty advisor or a success coach and how the experience is going. Jala will speak with Dr. Ward concerning a way to implement a survey with students.
 - iii. Possible solutions:
 1. Alert faculty members when they receive new advisees. We used to have this, but it stopped within the last year.
 2. Allow students to switch to a faculty advisor if they're not able to get in touch with their advisor.
 3. Allow faculty the ability to help students get their PIN number when they're not able to contact the Success Coaches.

VI. Adjourned at 3:35 PM ET.