

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Meeting of Thursday, October 26, 2023
Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3 pm Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President-Elect Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison

Recognition of Guests: Mike Licari, Maria Cronley, Tucker Brown, Perry Scanlan, Marc Brunner, Nancy Gibson, Dannelle Whiteside, Eric Morgan, Emmabeth Vaughn,

Roll Call of Senators: Senate Secretary Mahesh Pallikonda

Approval of Today's Agenda: Approval of October 26, 2023 agenda with amendment of moving item #5 to #1 and remove item #2 from the new business was made, seconded, and passed to approve October 26, 2023 agenda.

Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2023 Meeting: Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes

Remarks:

1. Senate President-Elect Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison (5 minutes) and Faculty Spotlight Dr. Emmabeth Vaughn (Physics, Engineering and Astronomy Department) (10 minutes)
Senate President-Elect Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison thanked the senate body and updated the senate about the events that will take place in the month of November which includes, Science on Tap, 25th annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Elisa Harkins Teach Me a song, Faculty research showcase by Florian Gargaillo and Ebony Amos. Following it, he welcomed Dr Emmabeth Vaughn.
Dr Vaughn shared her unique journey into engineering, sparked by a fascination with the small polymers inside diapers during a high school chemistry class, which led to the study of material science and engineering, particularly polymer nanocomposites. The focus then shifted to interdisciplinary research, exploring polymer systems in hydrogels

and biological materials. A collaboration involving injecting quantum dots into cells for studying cytoskeleton structures was highlighted. Ongoing collaboration in biofilm research was also mentioned. Furthermore, she informed the senate about the project she collaborated with Dr. Bobette Bouton which was funded by NSF. A specific empathy scale for engineering, its importance, and the role of engineers as societal caregivers were discussed. Finally, she welcomed collaborators to work with her on the research projects.

2. University President, Dr. Mike Licari (10 minutes)

University President Dr Mike Licari expressed his gratitude and praised the the Day of Service, mentioning its success and the expectation for improvement next year. He highlighted ongoing Homecoming events, encouraging support for student activities. President Licari also invited attendance at Ghosts on Sunday, an event involving young kids on campus and the upcoming events, including Veterans Celebration Week. The enrollment update was positive, with an increase in the freshman class compared to the previous year.

3. University Provost, Dr. Maria Cronley (10 minutes)

University Provost Dr. Maria Cronley provided various updates and reminders. Commencement was highlighted, with close to 800 students signed up for December ceremonies. The reminder was given about the mandatory attendance at May commencement and one other. Admissions processes are ongoing, with applications running strong. Initiatives from the previous year, such as achievement scholarships and the roadshow, will continue. The Gov Guaranteed tuition guarantee will be extended for the fall of 2024 class. Midterms have been reached, and the importance of submitting grades and following the roster process was emphasized. Priority registration for spring and summer has opened, with promising data on fall-to-spring retention. A personnel

announcement was made regarding the departure of Nancy King Sanders, with Amy Corlew being promoted to Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management. The university registrar position will undergo a national search.

4. Staff Senate President Gena Shire-Sgarlata (5 minutes)

Staff Senate President Gena Shire-Sgarlata was not able to attend to the meeting.

5. Vice President for Legal Affairs and Organizational Strategy, Dannelle Whiteside (10 minutes)

Vice President for Legal Affairs and Organizational Strategy, Dannelle Whiteside expressed gratitude for participation in the recent Day of Service, acknowledging the significant turnout and hinting at an even bigger event next year. The creation of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force was announced, with Whiteside heading the crossdivisional effort. The task force aims for an exploratory conversation on AI, seeking to develop an institutional response to its responsible use. Faculty representation is assured, and a white paper and action plan are envisioned. She encouraged AI exploration, dispelling misconceptions and highlighting its practical uses. Training for faculty and staff is proposed to harness AI's time-saving benefits. Additionally, she provided updates on the Students for Fair Admissions Case, discussing how the state's interpretation affects admissions, scholarships, programs, and grants. Strategies for compliance and adjustments, particularly regarding scholarships and programs with racial preferences, were outlined.

6. Director, Capital Planning, Design & Construction, Marc Brunner (10 minutes)

Mark Brunner, Director of Capital Planning Design & Construction, addressed challenges faced in 2022 due to inflation and supply chain issues. Construction projects were affected, and the state's delay in funding further complicated matters. Completed projects

in 2022 included Music/Mass communication HVAC replacement, Lot 7 Phase 1, Sundquist exhaust system controls, and Terra turf and track replacement. Current projects include the Health Professions Building, scheduled for completion in summer 2025, and the Kimbrough Renovation, set to finish in August 2024. Other projects in progress or planning stages include the Clarksville Entrance, the Welcome Center, the C. Harvill Dining Hall renovation, HVAC Electrical Phase 1, and others, with a request for additional funding for some. The Capital Maintenance request for 2024 includes the Military Academic Building, Sundquist roof and ventilation, and HVAC improvements. Cruder also discussed the ongoing Campus Master Plan, which encompasses space study and analysis, building condition surveys, maintenance, infrastructure improvements, site improvements, landscaping, and property acquisitions. Possible construction projects include Student Services, Memorial Health Strategic Studies Institute, Kimbrough Edition, Communication relocation to Marks, Library reimagining and renovation, Ellington renovation, and Sevier Block renovation. The fate of Middle College and its potential relocation will be determined as part of the master plan process.

7. Director, Office of Career Services. Eric Morgan (10 minutes)

Eric Morgan, Director of the Office of Career Services shared insights from the 2022 first destination data report, tracking where students go after graduation. The tool collects selfreported data from students, focusing on those with their first bachelor's degree. The overall knowledge rate in 2022 was just over 71%, with some variation across colleges. Positive career outcomes include part-time or full-time employment, continuing education, current military service, or volunteering. Negative outcomes are seeking employment or disengagement. Notable statistics from 2022 include a 65% employment rate (full or part-time), a 25% rate of continuing education (up 5% from 2021), and a

decline in the not-engaged category. The presentation emphasizes the importance of understanding and utilizing first destination data, especially in the context of potential inclusion in the funding formula by the legislature. The speaker invites collaboration and discussion to enhance positive outcomes for graduates and improve engagement with the survey.

New Business

1. Faculty Pulse Survey (Info item—5 minutes) Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve Faculty Pulse Survey.
2. Policy 2:006 Faculty Professional Development Sabbaticals and Policy 2:046 Faculty Workload (Action items—10 minutes) Not discussed as motion to remove this item was made, approved and seconded.

Adjourn: President-Elect Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM.