

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Called Meeting of Thursday, March 21, 2024
Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3 pm
Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Soma Banerjee

Recognition of Guests: Elaine Berg, Tucker Brown, Bobette Bouton, Margaret Rennerfeldt, Troy Priest

Roll Call of Senators: Senate Secretary pro tem Brandon di Paolo Harrison

Absent Senators: Lisa Barron, Terri Clark, Shani Collins-Woods, Terri Crutcher, Philip Elike, Amanda Estep, Charles Gonzalez, Matt Hampton, Megan Kienzle, Cheryl Lambert, David Rands, Tasha Ruffin, Isaac Sitienei, and Jennifer Snyder.

Approval of Today's Agenda: Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2024 Meeting: Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Remarks:

1. Senate President Dr. Soma Banerjee (5 minutes)
2. Office of Ombuds—Professor Margaret Rennerfeldt and Dr. Mickey Wadia (15 minutes)

Margaret gave a presentation explaining what an Ombuds does and does not do to faculty senate. She explained the training process and when the Ombuds will officially start.

Q1: Could you tell me based on what I tell you is to talk to an attorney?

A1: (Mickey) We would not go that far to tell you to seek legal advice.

Q2: Could you frame it different and say one of your options is to seek legal advice?

A2: (Mickey) Let's circle back. Mickey gave an example of the role of the Ombuds and the limitations to what the Ombuds can do in their role.

3. Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)—Troy Priest (15 minutes)

Troy presented on PEAY Composed relative to the SACSCOC Reaffirmation and QEP. He explained what QEP is and how it functions at the university to assist student learning objectives. Troy explained who is involved (faculty, staff, students, etc.) in QEP at APSU. QEP is currently focusing on written communication. This came from looking at DFW and Gen Ed data, faculty and student surveys, and focus groups. The three main outcomes: written communication, metacognition and self-regulation. The three main components are Faculty Communities of Practice, Peay Composed Courses, and Institutional Initiatives. Troy went on to delineate what is comprised within these QEP components.

Q1: I know there are conversations happening on campus. Do we have a strategy for how to address delinquent writing and the use of AI?

A1: We know, Dr. Andrea Lee in the College of Education, conducted some research and we know that our students are using some form of Grammarly. We know students are using degenerative AI.

New Business:

1. RTP P&G Updates –Dr. Uma Iyer. (15 minutes)

Uma explained the updates and changes to the RTP P&G. She explained there were some small edits to align this document to changes that have occurred on campus. Some changes had to be made to update this document because of Watermark and the roll this software plays in the RTP process. Uma discussed the changes relative to the new enhanced peer review. Uma explained the updates regarding the Ombuds and how they can not serve on any RTP committees at the university. She highlights at a minimum what should be in a majority report. Uma went over the guidelines for informal optional written responses that faculty senate previously voted to approve.

A motion was made to extend time.

Uma explained Appendix A to use the example chart to assist them.

A motion was made to accept the changes as presented, seconded, and approved by vote.

2. Faculty Handbook Updates—Dr. Bobette Bouton. (15 minutes)

Bobette explained that the committee was tasked to update the faculty handbook without making any major changes due to the SACSCOC Reaffirmation. The committee broke up the review of the handbook, checked all hyperlinks, change references to individuals to the office responsible for the task. Bobette went over the thirteen major updates to the handbook.

1. Updated the title “Chief of Institutional Culture and Title IX Coordinator” where needed.
2. Updated the positions that directly report to the President.
3. Checked and updated, if needed, all links throughout the document.
4. Updated commencement attendance requirement to show that two commencement attendance is required for any two of the three commencement times and May commencement is no longer a mandatory requirement.
5. Updated “Open Records” to “Records Retention and Disposal of Records” and updated the policy number to reflect 4:017.
6. Updated APSU 1000 to UNIV 1000 throughout.
7. Updated Govs ROW to GOVS GO in academic support services.
8. Deleted funding names in the Optional Retirement Program and included the link only.
9. Updated the link to Rand McNally for travel reimbursement.
10. Deleted all minors from the special programs since only a few were mentioned.
11. Updated “The Center for Service Learning and Engagement” to Community Engagement and Sustainability

12. Included information for faculty ombuds office and deleted staff ombuds position.
13. Added the Dean of the University College

Q1: Before the AA would assist with the travel request. I had to submit these four times. Is this something you can speak to?

A1: I am going to address this to Tucker and Tucker said he would follow up with the faculty senator to address it.

3. Rules Committee Updates—Dr. Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison. (30 minutes)

Ozzie discussed the changes to the bylaws stating some changes were cosmetic and some were to clean up the document. The committee made clarifications to reference new policies. He discussed the section on the importance of participation in faculty senate and how this should be included in the evaluation of the RTP process. Ozzie went over the changes to the election process as proposed. He also went over the changes to the nominations committee. Ozzie discussed the addition clarifying when the start of the term.

Q1: Faculty are going to make a committee to create the slate.

A1: Previously the slate committee made a tiered recommendation. This change is to clarify what the committee does.

Q2: So, everyone nominated for an executive position will be listed together?

A2: As proposed that is correct.

Q3: I have a question of Article 3, sections E & F?

A3: If you go on sabbatical, your position will be replaced by someone else until you return from your sabbatical, you would resume your term as a senator.

Q4: Regarding that policy, I do not think we clarified the occurrence. Do we want to clarify that and really have to go to the provost each time?

A4: Due to it being reserved for extreme purposes, not for participating remotely while at a conference.

Ozzie explained that this is an informational item and we will vote on this agenda item next Thursday.

Adjourn: a motion was made, seconded, and approved.