

**Austin Peay State University**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting of Thursday, May 1, 2025**  
**Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Senate President Dr. Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison

**Recognition of Guests:** Christina Chester-Fangman, Kyle Christmas, Terri Clark, Teri Crutcher, Andrew Kostakis, Gloria Miller, David Rands, Tucker Brown, and Mickey Wadia

**Roll Call of Senators:** Senate Secretary Nancy Gibson

**Absent Senators:** Ronnel Berry, Md Al Bhuiyam, John Blake, Mir Hasan, and Heather Tillewein

**Approval of Today's Agenda:** Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

**Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2025, Meeting:** Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

**Remarks**

1. Faculty Senate President, Dr. Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison (10 minutes)

In his final remarks as Faculty Senate President, Dr. Di Paolo Harrison reflected on the importance of shared governance, describing it as "the very breath we take as university community." He acknowledged the challenges of enacting this governance model while highlighting significant accomplishments of the past year, including: improved feedback for sabbatical requests; more transparent leadership selection processes; enhanced academic integrity safeguards; collaboration with Student Affairs; resolution of College of Education issues; advocacy for fiscal responsibility and the Budget Task Force; recommendations for Canvas implementation; and careful consideration of chair selection and removal policies. He also noted the inaugural Dr. Solie Fott Faculty Senate Leadership Award and the successful first Employee Appreciation Day with faculty participation. Dr. Di Paolo Harrison concluded by expressing gratitude to Executive Committee members for their dedication and service.

**New Business**

1. Election of 2025-2026 Executive Committee Members, Dr. Soma Banerjee (20 minutes)

Past President Banerjee, representing the Election Slate Committee along with Drs. Gloria Miller and Alan Chaparadza, conducted the election for the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Executive Committee. He explained that Robert's Rules of Order would be followed, with candidates for contested positions given two minutes to speak, proceeding in reverse alphabetical order. Dr. Banerjee clarified that only the 44 voting senators for

the next academic year were eligible to vote. Senators rolling off the Senate, on sabbatical, or serving as visitors were ineligible to participate in the election. The election results were:

- **Treasurer:** Dr. Susan Cockrell (College of Business) - elected by acclamation as the sole nominee
- **Provost Council Representative:** Dr. Uma Iyer (Psychology, College of Behavioral and Health Science) - elected by acclamation as the sole nominee
- **University Curriculum Committee Representative:** Dr. Leslie Binford (School of Nursing, College of Behavioral and Health Science) - elected by acclamation as the sole nominee
- **Member at Large:** Professor Jane Semler (College of STEM) received the majority of votes in the election with Dr. Asit Bandyopadhyay (College of Business)
- **Secretary:** Dr. Alice Lin (Computer Science, College of STEM) received the majority of votes in the election with Dr. Donna Short (College of Education)
- **President-Elect/Vice President:** Professor Darren Michael (Theater & Dance, College of Arts & Letters) elected after two rounds of voting among four candidates: Dr. Bill Rayburn, Dr. Sergei Markov, Professor Darren Michael, and Dr. Wes Atkinson

2. SASI Committee Report, Dr. Terri Clark (5 minutes)

Dr. Clark reported that the SASI Committee received 56 submissions requesting a total of \$129,000, but had significantly less funding available. The committee, consisting of Dr. Clark, Dr. Goodman, and Dr. Hampton, developed a rubric to evaluate submissions based on innovation, impact, student success, and new ideas. They awarded \$62,000 to 26 recipients across various departments. Dr. Clark noted that award recipients have been notified and will need to submit a report at the end of the next academic year documenting outcomes from their funded projects.

3. Handbook Committee, Dr. Bobette Bouton (5 minutes)

Dr. Bouton presented several updates to the Faculty Handbook that needed approval:

- Changing the cover page year from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026
- Updating the Dining Services section to remove references to the cafe and add the food hall, updating website links, and removing references to "plus dollars" and "y'all bucks" which are no longer available
- Removing references to Top Hat, which is no longer in use
- Deleting the sentence about portfolios being reviewed by the Study Abroad committee, as the Provost has eliminated this standing committee

The Senate approved these changes by majority vote.

4. Rules Committee, Dr. Brandon Di Paolo Harrison (5 minutes)

Vice President Di Paolo Harrison reported that the Faculty Senate Constitution received 275 votes, exceeding the required number for passage by five votes.

5. Faculty Senate Academic White Report, Dr. Allen Chaparadza (5 minutes)

Dr. Chaparadza presented the Academic White Committee's report comparing APSU's study abroad programs with peer institutions (UTC, MTSU, ETSU, University of Memphis, UT Martin, and Murray State).

The committee found APSU's approach was largely comparable, with structured global engagement and integrated GenEd components. Their recommendations included: creating clearer procedures for program initiation and evaluation; improving documentation of requirements and credit transfers; enhancing assessment methods; strengthening faculty training; and developing better alumni networks for mentoring.

During discussion, Dr. Dan Shea, faculty chair of education abroad, explained his request to change from a standing committee to an advisory committee appointed by chairs and deans. He cited the need for greater consistency and curricular expertise, while some senators expressed concern about reduced faculty input in the process.

6. Board of Trustees Meeting Report, Faculty Trustee, Jane Semler (5 minutes)

Due to time constraints, senators were directed to review Professor Semler's report already posted on the Faculty Senate Documents for Review webpage and to contact her with any questions.

7. University Curriculum Committee Report, Dr. Tyler Nolting (5 minutes)

Due to time constraints, senators were directed to review Dr. Nolting's posted and contact him with any questions.

8. Presentation of Awards to 2024-2025 Executive Committee Members (10 minutes)

9. President Di Paolo Harrison presented the following awards to Executive Committee members in recognition of their service: Brandon Di Paolo Harrison (Vice President/President Elect), Nancy Gibson (Secretary), John Nicholson (Treasurer), Bobette Bouton (Member at Large), Tyler Nolting (University Curriculum Committee Representative), Michelle Robertson (Provost's Council Representative), Jane Semler (Faculty Trustee), Soma Banerjee (Past President), and Dr. Uma Iyer (Parliamentarian). Past President Banerjee presented the award to Ozzie Di Paolo Harrison (President) with appreciative remarks for his service on behalf of his colleagues.

10. Passing the “gavel”

President Di Paolo Harrison officially passed leadership to incoming Faculty Senate President Dr. Brandon Di Paolo Harrison. The incoming President briefly addressed the Senate, noting that it would be a busy year with many interesting developments ahead. He requested and received a motion to suspend full senate meetings for the summer term.

**Adjourn:** Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote