

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**

**Date: 8-27-2024**

**Presiding:**  **DeAnna Owens-Mosby (Instruction and Curriculum Leadership)**

**Secretary:** Jeni Loftus (Sociology)

**Senators Present:** Laura Alderson (Management), William Alexander (Chemistry), Reza Banai (City and Regional Planning), Melanie Conroy (World Languages and Literatures), Bradley Dixon (History), Sean Driscoll (Philosophy), Barbara Fitzgerald Esq. (College of Professional & Liberal Studies), Rhema Fuller (Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality), Edith Gnanadass (Leadership), Carl Hess (University Libraries), Joy Hoffman (Family, Community, and Health Systems Science), Stephanie Huette (Psychology), Greg Hughes (Healthcare Leadership Dept), Andrew Hussey (Economics), Eddie Jacobs (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Jessica Jennings (Biomedical Engineering), Stephen Karr (Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music), Gensheng Liu (Marketing & Supply Chain Management), Jeni Loftus (Sociology), Tim McCuddy (Criminology & Criminal Justice), Michael Medcalf (Theater & Dance), Miriam van Mersbergen (School of Communication Sciences & Disorders), Patrick Murphy (Counseling, Educational, Psychology, and Research), Joel Nichols (Journalism & Strategic Media), Katie Norwood (School of Social Work), Ryan Parish (Earth Sciences), Kristy Patrick-Lewis Acute, Chronic, and Continuing Care Science), Dursun Peksen (Political Science), Shahram Pezeshk (Civil Engineering), Katy Ramsey Mason (Cecil C Humphreys School of Law), Will Robertson (Anthropology), Francisco Muller-Sanchez (Physics and Materials Sciences), Omar Skalli (Biological Sciences), Kate Sorensen (School of Accountancy), Mark Sunderman (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate), John Topinka (Dept of Public and Nonprofit Administration), Srikar Velichety (Business Information & Technology), Leah Windsor (Institute for Intelligent Systems & English), Amanda Young (Communication & Film), Xinhua Yu (School of Public Health)

**Senators Present by Proxy**: David Gray (Sean Driscoll – Philosophy), Mate Wierdl (Anna Kaminska – Mathematical Sciences), Tim McCuddy (Stephen Watts – Criminology & Criminal Justice), Sajjan Shiva (Xiaofei Zhang – Computer Science)

**Senators Absent:** Coe Lapossy (Art), Gladius Lewis (Mechanical Engineering), Daniel E. Millican (Military Sciences, Naval Sciences)

**Guests:** Jeff Delaney (ITS), Richard Evans (UMAR), Darla Keel (Registrar), Abby Parrill-Baker (Dean of CAS), Jeffrey Marchetta (Faculty Trustee), Sara K Bridges (Ombudsperson), and Tierenee Nichols (Admin Assoc).

The five hundred and seventh meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held on Tuesday, August 27th, 2024, in the Senate Chamber of the University Center.

**08.27.24.01** **CALL TO ORDER (2:40 P.M.)**

President Owens-Mosby called the meeting to order at 2:41pm with a quorum present.

**08.27.24.02** **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as written.

**08.27.24.03** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 30th, 2024, Faculty Senate (FS) meeting were approved by acclamation.

**08.27.24.04** **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Attendance & Proxies for Senators

Deans and chairs will be notified if senators are not regularly attending meetings. If you will be absent, you must find a proxy.

Standing Committee Meetings & Expectations

Standing committees need to begin meeting regularly. We will be asking for a monthly written reports from standing committees.

2024-2025 Charges

Reporting dates are a little less structured than last year. Chairs please begin to reach out to your committees to begin your work as a team. Senators are released from other duties in their departments and colleges, and should be committing significant time to their standing committees. Charges this year are more specific and detailed than in the past. You can also charge yourselves if there are issues you would like to address as a committee. Standing committee dates have been scheduled. Send monthly reports to Mark Sunderman.

AA3037 - Artificial Intelligence Tools in Teaching and Learning Environments

Last year the senate passed an AI policy. It is now an official policy. The state has mandated that the board of trustees approve an AI policy. This policy is going to have to be revised because of the title. President Owens-Mosby has reached out to the staff senate to work with them to revise this policy to cover both faculty and staff. Policy will be revised to meet the mandate from the state.

2024-2025 Tennessee University Faculty Senate President

President Owens-Mosby is also the president for the Tennessee University Faculty Senate. Meeting on October 5th here on campus.

New Senator Orientation

Orientation power point is available under the faculty senate website.

Shared Governance Meetings with Deans

Executive Committee met with the deans over the summer. Deans are invited to all faculty senate meetings.

**08.27.24.05** **REPORTS**

***Standing Committee Reports***

*Committee on Committees: Chair, Stephanie Huette*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Committee on Committees Chair Stephanie Huette who reported that we need a few new members for faculty appeals committee. Please contact your department for nominations.

*Academic Policies Committee: Chair, Edith Gnanadass*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Academic Policies Committee Chair Edith Gnanadass who reported that one of the committee’s charges is to do the divisive concepts taskforce. Patrick Murphy will head up that task force. Ask for volunteers in your department for the task force and forward names to Edith. The committee will also take on transfer credits that we will discuss shortly. The committee is also charged with the issue of textbook affordability. One issue that came to light is that the bookstore in Lambuth is a virtual bookstore now. Lambuth students are getting their books shipped to them free of charge.

*Academic Support Committee: Chair, Katie Norwood*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Academic Support Committee Chair Katie Norwood who reported that they have nothing to report.

*Administrative Policies Committee: Chair, Greg Hughes*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Administrative Policies Committee Chair Greg Hughes who reported that they have nothing to report.

*Budget and Finance Committee: Chair, Stephen Karr*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Budget and Finance Committee Chair Stephen Karr who reported that they have nothing to report.

*Faculty Policies Committee: Chair, Tim McCuddy*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Faculty Policies Committee Chair Tim McCuddy who reported that they had nothing to report.

*Library Policies Committee: Chair, Carl Hess*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Library Policies Committee Chair Carl Hess who reported that they have nothing to report.

*Research Policies Committee: Chair, William Alexander*

President Owens-Mosby yielded to Research Policies Committee member William Alexander who reported that they have nothing to report.

**08.27.24.06 OLD BUSINESS**

Faculty Senate Handbook

In the provost office right now for an update. The faculty handbook on the website is last year’s. They are working on getting it updated.

**08.27.24.07** **NEW BUSINESS**

Safety – Keith Humphrey, Chief of Police

Chief Humphrey’s gave a report on the status of the police department on campus and campus safety.

The university police department has been given a lot of resources that they are utilizing to the fullest.

The university crime information center is up and running. All cameras on all campuses feed into one location. There are roughly 1300 cameras. The center is fully staffed twenty four hours a day, 365 days a year. The center has AI capabilities. They want to be both proactive and reactive.

The university police department is rebranding. We needed a shot of energy. Doing a better job of explaining what they do. Now have a mission and vision statement for the department that aligns with the university's. The department wants to be more visible and more proactive.

The university now has its own school district and there are now school resource officers at the schools that are funded by a grant that Sally Parrish and the schools obtained.

You will see more vehicles out.

The department is almost completely staffed.

Their focus is to protect our bubble. Their responsibility is to the university community. They have a good relationship with the city, but their focus is the university community.

They are working with student government to develop a committee with students to talk about their concerns or issues in a safe environment.

The university went from 1st to 4th in safest campus in the state. The cause of this was property crime, not violent crime or crimes against persons. They are addressing that. Their goal is to get back to number 1.

Tiger Patrol is back up and running. It runs from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm.

They are starting a canine program. They hope to be up and running in January. It is a detailed process and have to get it right the first time. They are working to get policies in place and get a dual purpose dog for campus and the stadium. The university police will have a bigger footprint within the stadium.

Transfer Friendly Institution – Darla Keel, (Assistant Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Systems and University Registrar)

The president has charged the university with being a more transfer friendly institution. President Owens-Mosby wants us to consider this proposal as a full senate. Academic policies committee will handle this and bring it to the senate. Darla Keel is here to explain the proposed policy to us.

Darla Keel –

See attached document Undergraduate Residency Requirement Proposal

The registrar’s office is always looking for barriers to enrollment and to degree attainment and how they can be addressed. Our undergrad residency requirement has been a barrier. Currently 30 of a student’s last 60 hours must be taken at the university.

The proposal is that residency could be a combination across time to degree. This would align us with MTSU and ETSU. This would not over throw program requirements. It would help in programs that don’t have those requirements.

Questions:

Melanie Conroy (World Languages and Literatures) – Students who do study abroad or internships abroad often have this issue if they do it late in their program. Are there other instances where this is a problem?

Darla Keel – It is mostly students in the college of professional and liberal studies. The finish line students that are right at the end. These are the students we often have this problem with.

Patrick Murphy (Counseling, Educational, Psychology, and Research) – Is there any intention of changing this for grad programs as well?

Darla Keel – Not at this time. A barrier like this has not been identified there.

SOAR – Amanda Clarkson, (Director, Employee Relations, Benefits & Data Management) and Shundra White (Director, ITS Service Desk)

Shundra White –

See attached Power Point Presentation

See soar.memphis.edu for more information

The university is moving to Oracle. This is a multi-year effort. Financial and HR is the focus of SOAR.

We are in the build phase. Configuration and build until January and then we will do testing. Launch is in July 2025

There are a multiple ways to stay up to date on what is happening with SOAR: newsletters, announcements, town hall meeting, road shows, etc.

Questions:

Laura Alderson (Management) – Are you certain launch will be July 2025?

Shundra White – yes.

Laura Alderson (Management) – All systems will launch in July?

Shundra White – HR and finance.

Srikar Velichety (Business Information & Technology) – Is banner going to be completely retired?

Shundra White – Banner in its entirety is not going away, but financials will be shifting to Oracle.

Abby Parrill-Baker (Dean of CAS) – Student functions are staying in Banner.

Sara Bridges – Faculty Ombudsman

The ombudsperson is a confidential, neutral, informal and independent person that can assist faculty. There is a website that is available. Do not list a lot of personal information in an email. If you need to talk through something, she’s here for you.

Jeff Marchetta – Faculty Trustee

The faculty trustee is a member of the Board of Trustees and has the same voting power as other trustees.

Jeff will give a full report to the senate twice a year where he will discuss relevant business. Board meetings are open if you want to attend.

**04.30.24.08 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**04.30.24.09 ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.