

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**

**Presiding:**  Thomas E. Banning (Engr T) **Date: 1-21-20**

**Secretary:** R. Jeffrey Thieme (Marketing & Supply Chain Management)

**Senators Present:** Mohd Hasan Ali (Elec & Computer Engr), Reza Banai (City & Regional Planning), Thomas E. Banning (Engr Tech), Brennan K. Berg (KWS), Eugene Buder (Comm. Sci. Disorders), Theodore J. Burkey (Chemistry), Gerald Chaudron (Univ Libraries), Lorinda B. Cohoon (English), Frances Fabian (Management), Hal Freeman Jr. (Professional & Lib. Studies), David Goodman (Communication), David Gray (Philosophy), Denis D. Grele (World Lang & Lit), Melissa Hirschi (Social Work), Brian Janz (Business Info. Tech), Donna R. Jones (Law School), Robyn Jones (Music), Erno Lindner (Biomed. Engineering), Jeffrey G. Marchetta (Mech Engr), Scott Marler (History), Melissa Janoske McLean (Jour. & Strategic Media), Peter L. McMickle (Accountancy), Elizabeth B. Meisinger (Psychology), Sanjay Mishra (Physics),Steven L. Nelson (Leadership), Esra Ozdenerol (Earth Sciences), George E. Relyea (Public Health), Brian J. Ruggaber (Theatre & Dance), Steven D. Schwartzbach (Biology), Sajjan G. Shiva (Computer Science), Mark Sunderman (Fin, Ins, & Real Estate), Jeff Thieme (Marketing & Supply Chain Management), Kris-Stella Trump (Political Science), Stephen J. Watts (Criminal Justice), Máté Wierdl (Mathematical Sciences).

**Senator Present by Proxy:** David Goodman (Communication); proxy Sachiko Terui, Katherine Hicks (Anthropology); proxy Michael V. Perez, Joseph C. Ventimiglia (Sociology); proxy Jeni Loftus.

**Senators Absent:** Coriana Close (Art), Michail Gkolias (Civil Engineering), Leigh Falls Holman (CEPR), J. Joaquin Lopez (Economics)**,** Deanna Owens-Mosby (Instr. & Curr. Leadership), Harley P. Thompson (Mil Sci-Air Force), James F. Williamson (Architecture).

**Faculty Senate Information Officer:** To be determined.

**Guests:** M. David Rudd (President Office-absent), Thomas Nenon (Provost Office-absent), Linda Bennett (UMAR-absent), Jim Dorman (UMAR), Martha Robinson (ad hoc Budget & Finance Committee/ Lambuth Liaison-via phone), David M. Kemme (Board of Trustees, Faculty Rep.), Gloria F. Carr (Faculty Ombudsperson), and Meghan Cullen (President, Staff Senate-absent).

The four-hundred-and-sixty-eighth meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, January 21, 2020, in Senate Chambers of the University Center, room 261.

1.21.20.01 Call to Order

President Thomas Banning called the meeting to order at 2:40pm with a quorum present.

1.21.20.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following change: move Old Business (Confucius Institute-Ted Townsend, Government & Community Relations) to directly follow the President’s Report.

1.21.20.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the December 10, 2019 Faculty Senate (FS) meeting were approved as written with the addition of listing Pat Travis as present instead of absent.

**1.21.20.04 President’s Report**

*Dean’s Council Meeting*

President Banning reported that it was clear that Provost Thomas Nenon wants to get more facts out to faculty, stressing the importance of SRI. He asked Senators to please get back to him if that’s not happening in your college.

*Activity Updates*

President Banning reported that the administrator’s survey will come out this Spring. Also, the Provost has reminded the deans about evaluations this year.

*Chrome River Travel Expense*

President Banning provided a head’s up that a new travel expense process is going to be implemented soon. From what he’s seen so far, it looks to be a robust package. It still needs to go to the Policy Review Board (PRB) for approval. He expects it to be rolled out in May.

*Senate Budget*

President Banning reported that the Senate has traditionally not had a budget. He has gained approval for a base budget for the Senate as part of the SRI system.

*Going Paperless*

President Banning reported that the Senate is going to try to reduce our copy costs by beginning a paperless approach. Beginning in the next meeting, the agenda and minutes will not be printed. Other supporting materials will be distributed in hard copy.

**1.21.20.05 Old Business**

*Confucius Institute-Ted Townsend, Government & Community Relations*

President Banning introduced Ted Townsend, Chief Economic Development and Government Relations Officer, and yielded the floor to him. Mr. Townsend reviewed the services of his office, emphasizing that they interface with all forms of government. If faculty have any needs from government, his office can be of assistance. Regarding the Confucius Institute, the TN general assembly has had this issue on its radar for several years. Randy Boyd removed the Confucius Institute from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK). The state legislature has been inquiring about our Confucius Institute. After extensive study, it was found that the UofM does not have an active agreement with the Confucius Institute. The state of Tennessee Senate will be filing legislation soon to eliminate the Confucius Institute from all of Tennessee higher education. It will take some time to wind down our interactions with the Confucius Institute throughout this academic year. The plan is to broaden the effort into an East Asian cultural studies program. Provost Nenon has briefed Dr. Hsiang-te Kung (Director of CIUM and ASIT (Asian Studies and International Trade), Professor of Geography) and he is agreeable to the change in emphasis. Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) has more challenges on this issue than us. He doesn’t anticipate that the UofM will be swept up in any negative press coverage on this issue.

Senator Grele, asked about resources that the Confucius Institute provides and how those resources would be replaced. Mr. Townsend stated that it wasn’t his area but that they will be planning for those situations over the next year.

Senator Wierdl asked why the FS wasn’t involved in this decision. Mr. Townsend replied that the conditions have changed. Legislation will be filed and passed, so now the UofM wants to get ahead of that action.

Dr. Michael Perez (proxy for Senator Hicks) asked about the goal of the Confucius Institute. Mr. Townsend replied that he was not exactly sure.

Senator Grele asked how much money we would lose from closing the Confucius Institute. Mr. Townsend replied that he was not sure.

Senator Grele asked whether the state will provide funding to replace the Confucius Institute funding that will be lost. Mr. Townsend replied that to his knowledge there is no replacement money in the bill.

Senator Schwartzbach raised concerns that the state legislature will try to prevent the UofM from having an East Asian studies institute and concerns about academic freedom. Mr. Townsend replied that he raised the issue with the state of Tennessee Senate committee and suggested replacing the Confucius Institute with the East Asian studies program. He will push for that. He also mentioned that the state is not going after East Asian studies programs.

Senator Wierdl asked when Mr. Townsend heard that this state bill was being drafted. Mr. Townsend replied that he heard about it as late as this afternoon. He added that there were rumors about the legislation late last Summer and then again in November.

Senator McMickle asked if Mr. Townsend knew which State Senator was introducing the bill and whether we could request funding. Mr. Townsend indicated that State Senator Dolores Gresham is introducing the bill and that he will make efforts to request funding in the bill.

Senator Chaudron asked: Given that this seems to be inevitable, is the administration making plans to address the resource losses from losing the Confucius Institute? Mr. Townsend responded that he was not privy to those conversations. He stated that Provost Nenon has met with Dr. Kung and that this is an opportunity to form an East Asian studies program.

Senator Buder asked: Should the Board of Trustees have a role in lobbying for our academic freedom and funding? Mr. Townsend replied that it’s possible, but he’s not sure that it would be worth the effort.

Senator Ozdenerol commented that this as an opportunity to grow the current program into a broader focus.

**1.21.20.06 New Business**

*STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT*

President Banning addressed the issue of the Senate not knowing about the Confucius Institute developments. He stated that he did not find out about the legislative efforts until late last week, after the EC meeting. He mentioned that the Senate tried to schedule presentations from both University President M. David Rudd and Dr. Kung, but there were scheduling conflicts over the past couple meetings.

President-elect Marchetta suggested that the Senate should consider a charge to ask administration for a plan to support the continuation of the curriculum that’s already in place.

President Banning replied that the Executive Committee (EC) will get a motion out to the Senate on this issue.

*Academic Support Committee-ITS update*

President Banning yielded the floor to Senator Hirschi. She provided updates on the URL filtering pilot project. Regarding eCourseware combines, ITS (Information Technology Services) is asking for a process improvement to streamline that process. ITS is also looking for standardization improvements and is decommissioning POP email. 149 faculty are affected and ITS is working with all of them.

President Banning suggested that ITS could also improve the process of early access to eCourseware.

*Faculty Policies Committee- Shared Governance & Code of Conduct Language for Handbook*

President Banning yielded the floor to the Faculty Policies Committee Chair, Senator Buder. President Banning stressed that this is not a report, it’s an update on their draft report. He also asked for administration to respond to our compensation priorities. Senator Buder stressed that the Committee still wants the final product (Faculty Code of Conduct) to be reviewed by the University’s Legal Department and the Board of Trustees. Also, this is only an update on a draft. Nothing is final. He yielded the floor to Senator Ozdenerol. Senator Ozdenerol solicited feedback on the draft and asked Senators to email her with questions and concerns.

The Senate engaged in a discussion about the draft policy. Several Senators requested that the draft document be distributed for review. Senator Buder responded that the draft is not yet ready for distribution, but once it is, Senators will have an opportunity to be involved in revision of the draft at the appropriate time.

Senator McMickle requested that the important concept of conflict of interest be included in the code of conduct. Faculty must remove themselves from conflicts of interest. Senator Nelson suggested that Title 9 issues be included in the code of conduct.

Dr. David Kemme, Faculty Representative on the Board of Trustees, added that this is an important document. If it’s a change in University policy, it needs approval from legal, administration, and the Board. In addition to bringing administration into the process, he also suggested that the Committee circulate the best effort in draft form for feedback, then go to legal, then to administration, and finally to the board.

Senator Buder wrapped up discussion by stating that the committee is following that process (expressed by Dr. Kemme). He requested more feedback/involvement from Senators. The Committee will not present the current draft to legal without incorporating feedback from faculty.

Dr. Kemme suggested that the Board should not be included in the appeals process for disciplinary actions. The Board is not interested in dealing with those issues. They will only want to approve the policy.

**1.21.20.07 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at3:57p.m.