

Austin Peay State University

Faculty Senate

Meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2023

Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3 pm

Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Soma Banerjee

Recognition of Guests: Mike Licari, Tucker Brown, Perry Scanlan, Michael Kasitz, Joe Mills, Andrew Luna, JaCenda Robinson, Fonda Fields

Roll Call of Senators: Senate Secretary Mahesh Pallikonda

Approval of Today's Agenda: Approval of today's agenda and add agenda item #9, Decision Support and Institutional Research (DSIR) Executive Director Andrew Luna remarks was made, seconded, and passed to approve today's agenda with addition of Item #9 Andrew Luna's remarks.

Approval of Minutes from August 31, 2023 Meeting: Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes

Remarks:

1. Senate President Soma Banerjee (5 minutes) and Faculty Spotlight Dr. Tyler Nolting (Department of Health and Human Performance) (7 minutes)

Senate President Soma Banerjee thanked all senators that are present. He updated the senators on a series of events that will be held in the month of October. Notably, Halloween Costume contest on Oct 13, 13th Annual Smash! Bang! Lip Sync Contest on Oct 13, Homecoming Week on Oct 23, Artist Lecture - Taro Takizawa on Oct 18, Patton Entrepreneurship Grant Program Competition on Oct 17, Govs got Talent on Oct 24, Day

of Service on Oct 25. Later, he introduced Dr. Tyler Nolting to the senate body as the faculty spotlight.

Tyler Nolting explained how his special populations class focused on learning about African American health experiences from the early 1800s to the present. He played the song which he crafted himself “you won’t die twice”.

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

University President Dr Mike Licari, started with applauding Dr Tyler Nolting on his performance. President Licari updated the senate on the overall new freshmen enrollment down by 2.6% across all the LGIs and UT system in Tennessee. Furthermore, he informed the senate that the student loan debt for those students who graduate with debt in the state of Tennessee is somewhere around 26,000 bucks. APSU students who graduate with debt are only about 52% and rest 48% graduate debt-free. Additionally, those who graduate with debt is around \$23,000 which is lower than state average and national average. Additionally, he updated on the new construction projects 1) Health professions building, 2) New food court, and 3) New welcome center. He recognized the vice chair of the board of trustees Mike O’Malley for his very generous gift for the construction of new welcome center which would be named after O’Malley family.

3. University Provost, Dr. Maria Cronley (10 minutes) Provost Cronley was not able to attend to the meeting.

4. The Latino Community Resource Center Updates (10 minutes)

Student representative of Latino Community Resource Center informed the senate about the “UndocAllyship Training Workshop!” on Oct 19, 2023 at MUC 303&305. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness to the struggles faced by undocumented

individuals in higher education. Learn how to support undocumented students in the Austin Peay community.

5. Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Director of Housing, Joe Mills (10 minutes)
Appreciated the senate for having him for the talk. He started by answering few questions that were brought to his attention such as:

How are emergency homelessness addressed in housing?

He informed housing will not turn away any student for any kind of reason and welcomed everyone to let him know if some student needs emergency housing. They will find a space for them and worry about the money at a later time.

How do we deal with emergency food insecurity?

They provide funds called the hunger out program and food pantries. But again, if we have a student who is hungry or is food insecure, please send them my way and we will take care of them. Our contractor has food dedicated to that and we will just add meals on their card because I think the really cool thing about that. We're not going to give them some special part of the window so that everybody knows that they're insecure. They're just going to take the right inner going, swipe it like everybody else. We will take care of those folks so let me know if something happens with that.

How do our rates compare to other institutions?

About the middle of the pack on housing rates and APSU housing is one of the best in the state.

How about Wi-Fi upgrades and all student housing facilities?

Housing will work with IT, and generally try to have a life expectancy of about six years before start replacing stuff. Usually housing set aside between \$200,000 and \$225,000 a

year in order to do wireless upgrades. Additionally, Mills informed that the housing budget is self-sustained.

Question: How many students do we have on campus?

Max is 1900 students, we can house 24% of the campus population. We are a commuter campus, you know, there's no doubt about that. But we can house about 24% of campus population.

6. Assistant Vice President, Public Safety, Michael Kasitz (10 minutes)

Michael Kasitz introduced himself and explained the various divisions within the public safety that includes Emergency management, police department, Environmental Health and Safety, and parking. Informed the senate that parking is no longer funded by university and self-sustained since 2019. He recognized the current parking issues and are looking for the ways to improve.

Question: Do we have any off-campus places that are owned by the university where students could park and be shuttled in?

We don't unless it's the farm. Our busing system that does the circulator on campus. We have asked for additional routes and CTS cannot provide them. So, it's not just a parking issue, it's a busing issue. We were fortunate enough to beef up the busing to reach those outer lots and make the buses come more often. But we're still having issues because we can't get drivers.

Question: Can we add loud speakers or at least alert tones inside the buildings when tornadoes and things like that are going off?

I just put in the work order to install 20 wall beacons that flash and beep and give that same message. In public spaces, one of them will be going into the technology building. Three of them are going into Sundquist. There's twenty of them we have now. Once we

roll those out and see how well they work and how they're received, then we'll look at getting more. But yes, there is an indoor messaging system

7. Assistant Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, JaCenda Robinson (10 minutes)

Assistant Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, JaCenda Robinson informed the senate that we are in the midst of the classification and compensation study with Siegel. Explained the importance of Position Description Questionnaire for staff. Informed about the benefits fair that was held on September 28th and any questions regarding benefits and retirement services can contact the Benefits and Retirement Services coordinator Hannah Allen. Additionally, informed 23 faculty lines are posted this year. Also, informed the changes in the application process, unlike earlier, from this year there will be no holding process and we should be able to see applicant immediately. Since HR is not reviewing the applicants there will be a training virtual on 10th Oct and in-person in the week of 23rd Oct.

Question: For the faculty hire, we used to have to do the confidentiality and first personnel training. Are we on hold for that? Are we still doing those trainings before? Is this like the search committee training?

We're still having to do that. That's going to be done through institutional culture. And we're working out a process with them to see how. We can get, and that's something that's going to come out later on, maybe in the spring, how we can get individuals trained, knows that they're trained and have a listing of folks that can serve on search committees who have already been trained. We're thinking of ways where we can minimize that timeline from advertising to hire.

8. Board Meeting Report, Faculty Trustee, Professor Jane Semler (5 minutes)

Professor Jane Semler thanked the senate body for electing her to serve as your representative on the Board of Trustees. She shared the presentation on the meeting highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting. Some of the key points of the discussion are the increasing in enrollment, letter to THEC for to develop Master of Athletic Training programs, renovations to dining building, Mike O'Malley generous donation for the new welcome center, ongoing Kimbrough Building renovations.

9. Decision Support and Institutional Research (DSIR) Executive Director Andrew Luna:
Andrew Luna shared it was his pleasure to come to the meeting. He informed that since his arrival DSIR published 3 academic articles, given 15 conference presentations, and won two best paper awards. Additionally, he informed that our enrollment we up like 7%, but if you look at continuing students, we're only 3% from last year, we're down almost 8% from two years ago. Continuing students is an issue. Also, point out black retention last year, we really did well with black retention as went up almost 9%, but now it's kind of edged back down to 62%.DSR also looking at various metrics to analyze and improve the retention.

New Business

1. Compensation Survey (Info item—10 minutes) Professor Uma Iyer:
Professor Iyer informed the senate that compensation survey has been submitted for IRB approval, and we are still awaiting for their decision.
2. RTP updates (Info item—5 minutes) Professor Uma Iyer:
Professor Iyer informed the senate about the new enhanced peer review for the RTP Dossiers from Fall 2024. Therefore, faculty that are writing dossier should receive

enhanced peer review from this academic year. Time for the enhanced peer review is shared and asked the senate body to let the new faculty knew about the process.

Adjourn: President Soma Banerjee asked for a motion to adjourn the senate for the summer. The motion was made and properly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.