

## STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

219 Culp Center

March 9, 2020

**PRESENT:** Yaritza Abdelnour, Gwen Bays, Becky Birdwell, Lisa Booher, Tim Dills, Joy Fulkerson, Janet Green, Kathi Horne, Kimberlyn King, Ronald Mann, Debbie Marsh, Crystal Maupin, Jennifer Mayberry, Don McCarty, Kim Miller, Kathleen Moore, Skylar Moore, Amanda Mowell, Gina Osborne, Evelyn Roach, David Robinson, Hazel Robinson, Tory Street, Brian Thompson, Yvette Whittemore, and Andrew Worley. **EXCUSED:** Jake Allen, Allison Coley, Anthony Johnson, Trish Lowe, Candy Massey, Jessica Miller, Stefanie Murphy, Emily Redd, NaKeisha Talley, and Libby Tipton. **UNEXCUSED:** Cathy Metcalf.  
**RESIGNED:** Ben Bateson, Jessica Burlison, Jake Drumm, and Sandra Ritchie.

I. **Call to Order:** In the absence of President Candy Massey, Vice President Andrew Worley called the March meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. He introduced Dr. Brian Noland, our first guest speaker.

II. **Guest Speakers:** Dr. Noland welcomed the Senate to the improved Culp Center, noting that it is still under construction, but he stated the decision was made to open it now so that students could enjoy it for spring semester instead of waiting until the start of fall term when everything would be completed. He stated that the building will serve many purposes for meetings, classes, and food service, and he commented on how open and airy it is, facilitating more opportunities for students to come together as a community. He mentioned that several areas (near Culp and near the adjoining dorms) will eventually be reclaimed as green space. He would like most parking to be located on the periphery and have ETSU as a walking campus. Dr. Noland stated that the Martin Center is moving along nicely, and he expects it to be ready for the Fall 2020 gala in the works. He invited Staff Senate to tour the facility. He hopes to break ground on the Lamb Hall project this year and mentioned the extra space which will be added to that building. The Humanities Building is still on the state's capital project list, but nothing immediate will happen there. He referenced improvements to the interiors of several buildings and commented on efforts to make buildings more handicapped accessible. Senator McCarty asked, with respect to the Post Office and other areas of the Culp, if more long-term parking would be available than the two five-minute spots next to the Post Office entrance. Dr. Noland mentioned the metered lot across the street, but he noted that the Parking Committee is looking at options.

Dr. Noland provided a quick update on budget issues. He reported that he has spent much of the last two weeks in Nashville for hearings; funding for ETSU looks to be very solid, with nearly \$7 million in additional funding, much of which will be used for salaries. A two percent across the board raise will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their April meeting, with an additional \$350,000 - \$400,000 for other salary adjustments. THEC has placed a cap of two percent increases in tuition for the 2020-2021 year, so ETSU cannot raise additional revenue beyond that from fees. He stated that the Board will have tuition and fees set before students leave at the end of the term.



Other items Dr. Noland discussed include the student gun carry legislation, which he believes will fail and to which campuses have expressed opposition; sunshine legislation (dealing with outdated policies); internal messaging (some examples are seen on the first floor of Culp and others will soon appear); and his celebration of the basketball team's success this season. Dr. Noland addressed the coronavirus situation, and he suggested that students, staff, and faculty not panic but remain aware of the situation. He described planning efforts for worse case scenarios but hopes we will not have to implement them. Senator Kathleen Moore presented a scenario where employees might need to be quarantined for two weeks and not have sufficient leave to cover it. Dr. Noland replied that ETSU would do the right thing for the employees and make certain they were paid. Dr. Noland also mentioned the Committee for 125 - Part II - the new group looking at the vision of where ETSU should be at its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He commented on those ideas which have now become reality, the changing environment in which the university now operates, and the benefits such visioning creates for both the university and the community at large. Drs. Hoff and Bidwell are co-chairing the Visioning 2030 group as it's being called. Dr. Noland stated his hope that many senators will participate in the various subcommittees in that process. He explained the new honor wall (1911 Society) planned for the Culp Center and how ten students per year would be recognized on it. He closed by introducing Dr. Adam Green, his chief of staff, to the Senate and conducting a trivia contest with prizes.

Vice President Worley introduced Ms. Bethanie Dye of Sodexo, who shared news of dining plans geared toward faculty and staff with the Senate. She remarked how much the dedication of Roger's Buc Mart meant to Roger Armstrong and his family. Bethanie described the 60 meal plan which allows faculty/staff to carry over any unused meals for as long as they are employed at ETSU. The \$405 cost (\$370 + tax) can be paid at one time or through payroll deductions. Bethanie mentioned the new coupon book available to those who participate in the plan, and she shared that family members can use meals from an employee's plan. She also described Elite Events at the Dining Hall (special food opportunities which require additional payments but include special items and table service). Senator Kathleen Moore asked about food service options during the summer term; Bethanie stated that the Dining Hall would be open, and the meal plan would be available, but she was not certain if any of the retail facilities in the Culp would be open then. Senator Maupin mentioned that Building 60 on the VA campus is the only food service available on that part of campus. She asked if any other opportunities for dining would be available there; Bethanie replied that present plans are just for Building 60, but she offered to share that comment with her superiors. Senator McCarty asked if the discount at food vendors for ID Bucs holders is still valid; Bethanie responded that they are working with ID services to correct the issue. Senator Joy Fulkerson expressed her appreciation to Bethanie and Kelvin from Food Services for their help in not only restocking Bucky's Food Pantry but in also helping raise \$500 in cash donations toward that cause. Bethanie left information and payroll forms for interested Senators to take with them.

III. Approval of Minutes: Senator Brian Thompson moved to accept the February minutes as presented, with Senator David Robinson seconding. The motion passed.

IV. President's Report: Given President Massey's absence, no report was provided.

V. Vice President's Report: Vice President Worley mentioned that much of the material from that morning's University Council meeting had already been discussed by Dr. Noland in his presentation. He did add that a link is available to the campus' coronavirus plans on the main university website. He encouraged Senators to rely upon trusted information from the CDC or Tennessee State Health Department. He also mentioned the new two-factor authentication on our email system, which should be in place after Spring Break.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crystal Maupin presented her report: The main account balance is \$10,351.25; the balance in the Holiday Drive account is \$819.91; and the CBC account has a balance of \$2,681.25.

VII. Committee Reports:

Communications/Website Committee: Senator Amanda Mowell reported that their committee is working on assignments to improve the website.

Staff Awards: Senator Lisa Booher asked the members of the committee to meet following the Senate meeting today.

Picnic Committee: Senator Crystal Maupin asked the members of the committee to meet following the Senate meeting today.

Blood Drive Committee: Senator Joy Fulkerson reported that Marsh is on board for the picnic event; she expressed her hope that they would be allowed to set up donation beds in the Dome rather than using the mobile unit. She stated that it provided a greater sense of community to see those who were donating, as they had done at the recent Culp Center blood drive.

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business: None

X. Announcements: Vice President Worley announced the resignation of Senator Ben Bateson due to work conflicts with our meeting times. Senator Bateson's vacant position will be on the ballot this summer.

XI. Adjournment: Following a motion by Senator D. Robinson, Vice President Worley adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Dills, Secretary