

**Austin Peay State University**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting of Thursday, September 26, 2024**  
**Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

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

**Recognition of Guests:** Mike Licari, Maria Cronley, Tucker Brown, Anna Carrie Webb, Jeff Williams, Mickey Wadia, Kristen Sienkiewicz.

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

**Absent Senators:** Soma Banerjee, McLean Fahnestock, Charles Gonzalez, Kristen Hershey, Christina Hicks-Goldston, Mahesh Pallikonda, David Rands, and Jennifer Snyder

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

**Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2024, Meeting:** Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

**Remarks**

1. Moment of Silence, Dr. Gary Luck, retired U.S. Army General and former APSU Board of Trustees (2017-2021)

*Moment of silence observed.*

2. Chief of Institutional Culture and Title IX Coordinator, LaNeeça Williams (10 minutes):

*We will reschedule.*

3. President, Dr. Michael Licari (10 minutes):

*Enrollment Growth:* APSU experienced an 8.2% increase in overall enrollment, the highest increase among state universities. Dr. Licari credited this success to a campus-wide effort involving effective advising, financial aid support, and welcoming campus experiences.

*Provost Search:* Dr. Licari announced that Provost Dr. Maria Cronley would be returning to the College of Business at the end of the academic year. The search for her replacement has begun, led by Dr. L. Clemons. The search committee roster will be announced soon, and the search firm Storbeck has been hired to assist.

*Q1:* What was the yield from last year's recruitment efforts?

*A1:* Last year's yield from admissions efforts reached about 50%, compared to the usual 20%. This success is attributed to personalized outreach to prospective students.

*Q2:* How much did dual enrollment contribute to the enrollment increase?

*A2:* Dual enrollment was up by 10%. It now makes up 10% of APSU's student body, and its higher yield rate (49%) positively impacts overall freshman enrollment.

*Q3:* Are military students contributing to the enrollment increase?

*A3:* Yes, military-affiliated students make up 28.5% of the student body, up from 27% last year. Interestingly, much of this growth came from students outside of Fort Campbell.

4. University Provost, Dr. Maria Cronley (10 minutes):

*Program Updates:* Dr. Cronley provided updates on various academic programs, including the new Master of Science in Quantitative Methods.

*Myth about 8-Week Courses:* She dispelled a rumor that departments were no longer allowed to offer 8-week courses, clarifying that this is untrue and that 8-week terms are still supported if they fit pedagogically.

*Preview Day:* APSU is hosting a Preview Day with 350 families registered and 3,000 applications received so far for the upcoming academic year. The GOV tuition guarantee and scholarship programs will continue.

*Q1:* Are 8-week courses still viable, especially with Fort Campbell students?

*A1:* Yes, Fort Campbell students still prefer 8-week terms, and the university continues to offer them in programs where it makes sense pedagogically.

5. Senior Vice Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Tucker Brown (10 minutes)

*Faculty Workload Report:* Dr. Brown presented a follow-up on faculty workload data, indicating that 23% of faculty are underload, though most by only 1 credit.

*Q1:* Are departments requesting overloads to compensate for underloads?

*A1:* Yes, departments often request overloads due to scheduling complexities and the challenges of balancing undergraduate and graduate courses.

6. Senate President Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison (10 minutes):

*AI Policy:* Faculty now have three AI syllabus statement options, which can be tailored to individual course needs. These statements are optional, not mandatory.

*Chair Evaluations:* Updates were provided on the Chairs and Director's policy, for which Watermark was mentioned as an option for chair evaluations, though it has not been finalized. Current discussions are focused on comparisons with other LGIs, chair longevity, the evaluation instrument and criteria, and the potential removal of chair positions.

7. Executive Director, Distance Education, Dr. Anna Carrie Webb (10 minutes):

*RSI Compliance:* Dr. Webb explained the importance of Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) for distance education courses. Compliance with RSI ensures that APSU's online courses meet federal standards for financial aid eligibility. Faculty are required to self-report RSI compliance through forms submitted with syllabi each semester.

*Q1:* Does responding to individual student emails count as RSI?

*A1:* Yes, responding to substantive course-related questions via email qualifies as RSI, and faculty are encouraged to document these interactions.

*Q2:* How can faculty ensure they meet RSI requirements with auto-graded quizzes?

*A2:* Auto-graded quizzes alone do not meet RSI requirements unless accompanied by individualized feedback or discussions initiated by the instructor.

8. Director of the Center for Advancement of Faculty Excellence, Dr. Jeffrey Williams (10 minutes):

Dr. Williams introduced new faculty development initiatives, including Accountability Hour for focused research and writing, and Faculty Excellence in Action, which highlights faculty achievements in the CAFE newsletter. He also unveiled the CAFE Calendar for faculty-focused events, allowing easy download to Outlook. Upcoming workshops include topics on improving comprehension and political discourse. Williams also discussed civility programs around the election, aimed at fostering respectful campus dialogue.

## **New Business**

1. Faculty Trustee, Professor Jane Semler (10 minutes):

Faculty Trustee Semler shared an overview of the recent Board of Trustees meeting, noting that the student protests during the meeting were well-received. The Board discussed several academic program updates, including the new Master's in Quantitative Methods. Additionally, roof repairs across campus were scheduled following damage from recent storms.

2. APSU Curriculum Committee Report, Dr. Tyler Nolting (5 minutes):

Senate UCC Representative Nolting provided a brief update on curriculum modifications, including course deletions related to old Tennessee eCampus programs and a review of the Business Analytics concentration.

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

Faculty Handbook Committee Chair Bouton encouraged faculty to submit any suggestions or concerns regarding the Faculty Handbook for review. This year's focus includes potential updates on policies related to Annual Faculty Evaluations and AI usage. Faculty are invited to email Dr. Bouton directly with any feedback or proposed changes.

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