

**Austin Peay State University**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting of Thursday, October 24, 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, Loretta Griffy, Patrice Cheatham, Lt. Chris Jones, Logan Sykes, Rylie Morris, and Mickey Wadia.

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

**Absent Senators:** Bobette Bouton, Susan Cockrell, Terri Crutcher, Charles Gonzalez, Manisha Gupte, Matt Hampton, Kristen Hershey, Alice Lin, Gloria Miller, Jessica Morris, Bill Rayburn, Bettina Shank, and Heather Tillewein.

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

**Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2024, Meeting:** Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

**Remarks**

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

President Licari opened with a homecoming week update, highlighting the return of alumni and various celebratory events. He then outlined the fiscal 2026 budget process, explaining that the Administration and Finance division has begun collecting information about mandatory cost increases from divisions. Budget development will continue pending state information expected in late January.

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

Provost Cronley shared significant achievements, including APSU's Quality Assurance Funding score increase from 83 to 97 out of 100, resulting in \$30,000-35,000 additional funding. She discussed the growth in specialized student populations, noting military-affiliated students have increased from 24% to 30%, while the Full Spectrum Learning Community has expanded from 12 to over 100 students. Discussion focused on supporting these populations, with faculty raising questions about legal and liability issues in handling student challenges. The Provost outlined available resources and encouraged early intervention through the GovSignal system. She also reported progress on the Chairs and Directors policy review, with presentation expected January 2025.

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

Senate President Di Paolo Harrison welcomed nine new senators: Laura Barnett, Asit Bandyopadhyay, Ronnel Berry, Leslie Binford, Darren Michael, Bill Pruitt, Donna

Short, Kristen Sienkiewicz, and Lori Smith. He directed senators to Senate resources and announced the formation of a new faculty data committee with university data experts. Regarding the university's AI policy under review, he explained that while this policy won't route through Senate as it's not an academic affairs policy, senators can provide feedback through the policy feedback system until October 28. He clarified concerns about policy approval processes, noting that both Faculty and Staff Senate Presidents participate in policy committee decisions. The Academic Red Committee's interim report will be shared at the November meeting, and the Academic White Committee reported on their RSI progress to executive committee. Faculty Senate will have a tent at the homecoming tailgate.

4. Dean of University College & Associate VP of Academic Affairs, Dr. Loretta Griffy (10 minutes):

Dr. Griffy provided the University College's first-year update since its August 2023 formation. She detailed four divisions: University Student Success, University Honors Programs, Student Research and Innovation, and University Studies Program. The Honors Program has seen remarkable growth from 40-50 to 221 students, with Dr. Griffy encouraging faculty participation in honors courses, particularly HONORS 1045. She announced the Austin Peay Experience grant program offering up to \$2,000 for qualifying juniors who started in Summer 2023 or later, with initial applications due November 8. The college's Lightcast labor market data partnership, available through October 2025, offers departments valuable insights into graduate outcomes and employment trends. Dr. Griffy encouraged faculty to utilize these resources while grant funding remains available. The presentation concluded with discussion of AP Navigate implementation and its role in supporting student success initiatives.

5. Senior Associate Registrar, Patrice Cheatham (10 minutes):

Senior Associate Registrar Cheatham, speaking on behalf of Dr. Felicia Nagel, outlined several major initiatives from the Registrar's Office. These include updated attendance tracking for federal aid compliance and a streamlined academic appeals process now managed by a cross-departmental committee meeting biweekly. She detailed upcoming implementations including Parchment Transcripts, Parchment Diplomas and Raptor transfer evaluation tool (January 2025), and the Coursedog scheduling system (April 2025). Addressing faculty concerns about room assignments and scheduling flexibility, Cheatham assured departments they would retain scheduling authority under Coursedog, with particular attention to specialized spaces like labs and equipment-specific rooms. She noted that Tennessee Tech is providing guidance on Coursedog implementation to help avoid potential challenges. The office has also restructured the academic calendar for clearer organization and welcomed a new IT specialist to support these technological transitions.

6. President of Staff Senate, Lieutenant Chris Jones (5 minutes):

Lt. Jones, Staff Senate President, focused on student success initiatives and crisis intervention improvements, highlighting his work with the Montgomery County Crisis Innovation Team and evolving approaches to mental health response.

7. President of the Student Government Association, Logan Sykes (5 minutes):

SGA President Sykes announced a November 6 Town hall (Clement Auditorium) featuring all three student governing bodies and proposed establishing Faculty Senate-SGA liaison positions. The SGA office in MUC 213 maintains regular hours for faculty consultation. Discussion included funding allocation processes for campus improvements.

### **New Business**

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

Senator Nolting presented 119 curriculum changes, including new elementary language offerings in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Notable additions include new courses in podcasting and AI applications for business. Program modifications include removing the GRE requirement from MA English, updating the MSLP competency exam structure, and modifying several programs' requirements and designations. Fifty-nine courses unused in the past six years were removed from the catalog.

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