

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Meeting of Thursday, January 23, 2025
Morgan University Center, Room 307 | 3:00 pm
Minutes

Call to Order: Jane Semler, Trustee

Recognition of Guests: Mike Licari, Maria Cronley, Tucker Brown, Martina Malvasi, and Mickey Wadia

Roll Call of Senators: Senate Secretary Nancy Gibson

Absent Senators: Laura Barnett, Ronnel Berry, Terri Crutcher, Ozzie Di Paolo Harrison, Brandon Di Paolo Harrison, Manisha Gupte, Matt Hampton, Christina Hicks-Goldston, Darren Michael, Gloria Miller, Heather Moran, Mahesh Pallikonda, David Rands, and Jennifer Snyder.

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

Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2024, Meeting: Motion made, seconded, and passed by majority vote

Remarks

1. Minute of Silence, Chef Carl G. Conway, Director of the Culinary Arts Program

The Senate observed a moment of silence in memory of Chef Carl Conway, Director of the Culinary Arts Program since 2023. Chef Conway was an Austin Peay alumnus, retired Army Master Sergeant, and award-winning chef.

2. President, Dr. Michael Licari (10 minutes)

Provost Search: Four of eight semifinalist interviews completed. Process moving quickly with remaining interviews to be completed by early next week. Committee will narrow to three finalists for campus visits, with decision expected shortly after.

State Budget Process: Timeline may be delayed due to special session starting Monday. State of the State address likely delayed from February 3rd to February 10th or 17th. THEC tuition decision, typically made February 7th, may be postponed until after State of the State address.

Enrollment Update: Strong fall enrollment numbers reported. Readmitted student initiative through state "reconnect" program more successful than anticipated. First admission roadshow of the season scheduled for tonight in Clarksville with 165 prospective students and parents expected.

Q1: Regarding good enrollment numbers, are there plans for faculty salary adjustments?

A1: Salary evaluation report not yet complete. Previous increases haven't kept pace with inflation. Will work with state numbers when available.

Q2: Any information on which areas returning students are pursuing degrees in?

A2: Data analysis not yet completed at that granular level. Will be investigated further.

3. University Provost, Dr. Maria Cronley (10 minutes)

Admissions Events: Preview Day scheduled for February 8. Roadshow events planned for multiple locations including Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, and Memphis.

Financial Aid: First university in state to distribute financial aid packages to new students for third consecutive year.

Retention: Record fall-to-spring retention rate of 92.404%. Overall spring enrollment up 10.72% compared to previous year.

Faculty Recognition: Jennifer Thayer and Sergei Markov selected for TBR high-impact practice task force.

4. Trustee, Jane Semler (5 minutes)

Faculty Senate Elections: February elections announced with following vacancies:

- *College of Arts and Letters:* 10 senators
- *College of STEM:* 5 senators
- *College of Business:* 1 senator
- *Library:* 1 senator
- *College of Behavioral and Health Sciences:* 4 senators

Faculty Pulse Survey: Second annual survey scheduled for week after spring break in March.

Employee Appreciation Event: Scheduled for **April 9, 11am-3pm**. Events to include food trucks, photo booth, DJ, country line dancing, liquid nitrogen ice cream demonstration, breast cancer awareness demonstration, and spinning wheel activities.

5. Director of Library Services, Dr. Martina Malvasi (10 minutes)

Renovations: Main floor renovation completed with plant funds and provost one-time funding. The renovation includes new kinetic carpeting and LVT flooring throughout the space. Accessibility improvements feature pathway markers and restroom modifications, along with height-adjustable workstations. The space now offers three group study rooms, two individual study rooms, and a new LAMP (Lactation, Meditation, and Prayer) room.

Makerspace: The new facility is equipped with three 3D printers, VR headsets featuring Ovation software for presentation practice, sewing machines, and a new embroidery machine. Additional equipment includes Cricut and laser cutters, as well as color printers.

Q1: Visually impaired student access to library databases?

A1: Working with vendors to address JAWS compatibility issues with native interfaces.

Q2: Specific software needs?

A2: Will work with vendors and pursue necessary funding for accessibility improvements.

New Business

1. Policies (10 minutes)
 - a- 2:010 Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Retention Standards – NO CHANGES, APPROVED
 - b- 2:016 Adoption of Textbooks, Open Education Resources and Ancillary Course Materials – NO CHANGES, APPROVED
 - c- 2:022 Posthumous Degree – NO CHANGES, APPROVED
 - d- 2:034 Faculty and Academic Staff Abroad Policy- TABLED
Discussion focused on interactions with research integrity requirements and compliance concerns. Motion made to table until February meeting to allow alignment with Policy 2:068 (Research Integrity). Motion seconded and approved.
 - e- 2:062 Survey Administration – RESCINDED, APPROVED

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

Consent Agenda Items: The committee reviewed 75 total items. These included course number changes in African American Studies and course rubric changes in Dance to align with accreditation requirements. Additionally, seven course title changes were made in Arts and Culinary Arts, along with sixteen prerequisite updates. The committee also processed twenty-three description updates and twenty-three course deletions.

Action Agenda Items: New courses were approved including Art 3290 (History of Animation) and COM 2180 (Live Sports Production). Program modifications were made to Ancient Mediterranean Studies, French programs, International Studies, and Theater and Dance. The committee also approved a new STEM scholar seed research course (HONORS 2000), a new breakfast cookery course (CA 2400), and a new accelerated baking certificate.

3. Trustee Report, Professor Jane Semler (10 minutes)

Budget: October revised budget approved, reflecting funds encumbered from previous fiscal year and 3% raises.

Dining Facility Renovation: Sodexo-funded renovations progressing with fall 2025 completion target. Plans include full-service Chick-fil-A, Subway, and additional dining options.

Jenkins and Wynns Center: Renovation plans presented, including meeting spaces, event spaces, and catering facilities. Timeline includes nine months for design followed by one-year construction phase after funding secured.

Additional Items: The board reviewed the Generative AI policy appendix and received updates on Student Affairs, including the career success center reorganization. An IT security update revealed a 4.8% phishing click rate. The board completed its self-assessment and announced the rescheduling of the next board meeting to April 11.

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