



Academic Affairs Committee			
3.19.20		1:30 p.m.	317 College Street, Clarksville, TN 37040
Meeting Type	Academic Affairs Committee		
Note Taker	McCartney Johnson		
Attendees			Present (Y/N)
	Brig. Gen. Robin Mealer, Chair		Y (Electronic)
	Gen. Gary Luck		Y (Electronic)
	Dr. Valencia May		Y (Electronic)
	Ms. Stacy McAllister-Brooks		Y (Electronic)
	Dr. Mickey Wadia		Y (Electronic)
	Dr. Rex Gandy, ex-officio		Y
	Mr. Mike O'Malley, ex-officio		Y (Electronic)
	Dr. Alisa White, President		Y
	Dannelle Whiteside, Secretary to the Board		Y
Call to Order			
Discussion			
Trustee Mealer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m			
Roll Call/Declaration of Quorum			
Discussion			
Trustee Luck, Trustee May, Trustee McAllister-Brooks, Trustee Mealer and Trustee Wadia participated by teleconference. As she called the roll, Ms. Dannelle Whiteside asked those participating by teleconference if they could hear clearly and if they could distinguish the voices of those present in the meeting room from those at their location. All trustees answered "yes" to both questions.			

After calling the roll, Ms. Whiteside did not detect a physical quorum present; however, a quorum existed by the inclusion of those members participating by electronic means. Ms. Whiteside stated that in accordance with T.C.A. § 8-44-108 section (b) (2), the following circumstances necessitated the reason for holding this meeting electronically:

Effective March 12, 2020, Austin Peay State University began operating in a limited capacity, suspending on-ground classes, due to the spread of the coronavirus. The administration made the determination to limit large gatherings of individuals, such as this board meeting, in order to protect the health and safety of participants.

A general discussion was had regarding if the electronic meeting was meeting the open meetings guidelines.

Conclusions

Trustee Mealer moved that necessity had been established to hold this meeting in the absence of a physical quorum. The motion was seconded by Trustee Luck. A roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously with 4 trustees voting yes.

Gary Luck:	Yes
Valencia May:	Yes
Robin Mealer:	Yes
Mickey Wadia:	Yes

Yes: 4, No: 0

Action Item A - Consideration of Tenure Appointments

Discussion

Trustee Mealer recognized Provost Gandy to provide information on tenure approval. A total of 17 faculty members were recommended for tenure after meeting all the requirements of the APSU policy on tenure. Dr. Gandy shared the list of faculty members with the Board.

Conclusions

Trustee May moved to approve the recommendations for tenure as written. The motion was seconded by Trustee Luck. A roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously with 4 trustees voting yes.

Gary Luck:	Yes
Valencia May:	Yes
Robin Mealer:	Yes

Mickey Wadia:	Yes
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Yes: 4, No: 0

Action Item B - Petition for the Right to Appeal Negative Tenure Decision of Dr. Neeta Bhasin

Discussion

Trustee Mealer recognized Ms. Dannelle Whiteside to provide information on the tenure policy and the appeal process regarding Dr. Bhasin. She explained that Dr. Bhasin is petitioning to the APSU Board of Trustees for the right to appeal the 2019-2020 decision by the University President to deny her tenure. She further explained that, in deciding to grant the appeal, the committee may consider the following:

- Whether Board policy or procedures have been followed;
- Whether or not there is material evidence to substantiate the decision appealed from; and/or
- Whether or not there has been a material error in application of the law, which prima facie results in substantial injustice.

Trustee Mealer moved to deny the petition for the right to appeal the tenure decision. Trustee Luck seconded.

A general discussion followed about the process of appealing tenure decisions and how the appeal got to the Board. A discussion was also had about whether a faculty member should have the right to appeal to the Board. Additional discussion occurred about Policy 1:010 needing to be revised. There was also a discussion concerning whether the appeal would be heard within the established tenure deadlines.

Conclusions

Trustee Mealer withdrew her first motion and moved to approve the petition for the right to appeal the tenure decision. The motion was seconded by Trustee Luck. A roll call vote was taken with 2 trustees voting yes and 2 trustees voting no. Due to the vote resulting in a tie, Chairman O'Malley casted a tie-breaking vote of yes. The motion carried.

Gary Luck:	Yes
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Valencia May:	No
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Robin Mealer:	No
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Mickey Wadia:	Yes
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Yes: 2, No: 2

Action Item C - Approval of the Master of Speech-Language Pathology

Discussion

Trustee Mealer recognized Provost Gandy to provide information regarding the Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) program. Dr. Gandy stated that the community has been enthusiastic about the program. Upon the Board's approval, APSU will seek approval from THEC and SACSCOC, for a fall 2021 start.

A general discussion followed about the process for recovering money from a new program and how the University evaluates and assesses new programs.

Conclusions

Trustee Luck moved to approve the Master of Speech-Language Pathology program. The motion was seconded by Trustee May. A roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously with 4 trustees voting yes.

Gary Luck:	Yes
Valencia May:	Yes
Robin Mealer:	Yes
Mickey Wadia:	Yes

Yes: 4, No: 0

Adjourn

Discussion

Trustee Mealer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Luck. The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.