

# ***The Faculty Voice***

## **Faculty Senate Newsletter**

### **November 2011**

Newsletter Editor: Stefanie Ohnesorg, Information Officer

This newsletter is provided to you as a means of keeping you connected to the activities of the UT Knoxville Faculty Senate, your representative body for the Knoxville campuses. The intent of this newsletter is to keep all faculty members informed about current issues before the Faculty Senate and to motivate all faculty to get involved. Questions regarding and suggestions for this newsletter may be directed to the Information Officer of the Faculty Senate, Stefanie Ohnesorg, at [ohnesorg@utk.edu](mailto:ohnesorg@utk.edu).

### **Items Covered in this Newsletter:**

- 1. Mic/Nite**
  - 2. CIRE Renamed to Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education Living Wage Resolution**
  - 3. Capital Outlay and Maintenance Assessment (FY 13 Special Assessment)**
  - 4. SAIS Evaluations**
  - 5. "Peer Evaluation of Teaching Guide" Posted on the Provost's Webpage**
  - 6. Faculty Pub**
  - 7. Faculty Senate Updates**
    - Links to Minutes, Agendas, and Reports
    - **Major Items on the Agenda for the November 21, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting**
    - **Make Your Voice Be Heard! Provide Input via the Senators from YOUR Unit!**
- .....

#### **1. Mic/Nite**

The Office of the Provost is hosting a Mic/Nite, a "Pecha-Kucha Powered" social gathering, twice a year in order to enhance the intellectual, interdisciplinary, and cultural life of the faculty and staff at UT Knoxville. Pecha-Kucha is a simple lecture format where presenters show and discuss twenty images for twenty seconds each. In this presentation format the images automatically forward while the presenter talks. The concept began in Tokyo, Japan, in 2003 and has spread to more than 400 cities around the world. The format allows presenters to show images and talk about everything from urban design or economic theory to a series of photographs. More information on Mic/Nite is available at <http://provost.utk.edu/mic-nite/>, and all Mic/Nite Fall 2011 presentations can be viewed at <http://provost.utk.edu/mic-nite/present.shtml>.

Spring 2012 Mic/Nite will take place Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at "The Valarium" (112 Ramsey Avenue) and Spring presenter nominations are due on December 5, 2011. For more information on Mic/Nite please contact Beauvais Lyons (Mic/Nite Coordinator) at [blyons@utk.edu](mailto:blyons@utk.edu).

#### **2. CIRE Renamed to Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education**

The University of Tennessee has renamed its new energy sciences graduate research program with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in honor of former Governor Phil Bredesen, who served Tennessee from 2003 to 2011, in recognition of his leadership in education and economic development for the state. The Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and

Graduate Education brings together extensive and complementary resources at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to increase science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research of national significance. Currently 19 PhD students with average GRE scores of 1400 are enrolled in the highly competitive interdisciplinary PhD programs offered through the center, and it is planned to recruit 25 PhD students of equal quality and academic promise for fall 2012. More information on the Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education is posted at <http://cire.utk.edu/index.php>.

### **3. Capital Outlay and Maintenance Assessment (FY 13 Special Assessment)**

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) combines the roles of State University and Land Grant institution. The UTK Carnegie Classification is "Research University" and the 2009 report issued by the Center for Measuring University Performance at Arizona State University ranks UTK as the 27<sup>th</sup> highest public research university in the country. Since then, UTK has embarked upon a strategic planning process to place itself firmly among the top 25 public research universities by 2015. Having sufficient and appropriate facilities is an absolute prerequisite for increased quality, and the Chancellor's report on Capital Outlay and Maintenance Assessment (FY 13 Special Assessment), posted at <http://senate.utk.edu/files/2011/09/FY13-Capital-Outlay-Maintenance.pdf> describes the existing conditions of facilities at UTK and sets forth the immediate and long-range needs. The entire campus community is strongly encouraged to familiarize itself with this document.

As is demonstrated in this document, one of our most limiting factors is the amount and quality of space on the campus. Using THEC calculations, UTK is almost 1 million square feet short of what we need, and in addition we have almost \$200 million in deferred maintenance. In order to address this situation, UTK has imposed a new academic building and maintenance and renovation fee of \$200 per student that will generate approximately \$5 million per year. In addition the Governor is committed to explore bonding as a way to leverage money for new buildings, and with bank rates as low as 4-4.5%, UTK should be able to bond up to \$1.5 million. The Chancellor's report on Capital Outlay and Maintenance Assessment (FY 13 Special Assessment) lists UTK's current priorities. It is important to note that these may change over time, and that there may be additions to the list. For this year, a total of \$9 million available for construction and renovation: \$5 million generated through the new student fee (Academic Building and Maintenance and Renovation Fee) and an addition \$4 million the campus has saved for this purpose. It is the Chancellor's assessment that the current economy creates good conditions for borrowing and building; for example current campus construction which was estimated at \$38 million, but is overall costing only \$27 million.

### **4. SAIS Evaluations**

Together with the Office of Media Relations, the provost's office has established a communication plan for SAIS Evaluations in order to ensure high student participation. The process will begin in November with a presentation to SGA and the Provost's Advisory Council. In addition, students will receive information on multiple occasions via various campus communication channels (e-mail, BlackBoard, etc.) explaining what the campus does with the data and why it is important for students to complete the evaluations. In addition, faculty members are encouraged to make time available in class for students to complete SAIS evaluations.

## 5. "Peer Evaluation of Teaching Guide" Posted on the Provost's Webpage

It was brought to Faculty Senate President Vincent Anfara's attention that the origin of a report entitled "Peer Evaluation of Teaching Guide" posted on the Provost's webpage was not clear, and it is important to note that this document has not yet been vetted by the Faculty Senate's Teaching and Learning Council. In the meantime, a new preface has been added to this document that clarifies its origin and also states that this draft is currently under review by the Faculty Senate. All faculty members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this draft (<http://provost.utk.edu/docs/misc/peer-review-guide.pdf>) and provide input to the Faculty Senate's Teaching and Learning Council, chaired by Lloyd Rinehart ([rinehart@utk.edu](mailto:rinehart@utk.edu)).

## 6. Faculty Pub

In October 2011, Sarah Gardial, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, has launched a new UTK tradition: "Faculty Pub Thursdays" at Bridgeview Grill on the third floor of the UT boathouse on Neyland Drive. The Faculty Pub will be open every Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. for the remainder of the fall semester, and it will provide a relaxed environment for faculty and administrators to gather. Parking is available in the C-14 lot across from the boathouse building, and all faculty members and administrators are encouraged to check out the Faculty Pub at UTK. For more info see <http://www.utk.edu/tntoday/2011/10/20/launch-faculty-pub-thursdays/>.

## 7. Faculty Senate Updates

The UT Knoxville Faculty Senate is the representative body through which the faculty participates in University affairs and shared governance. Through committees and a democratically elected legislative body, it promulgates policies and regulations regarding the general educational objectives of UT Knoxville. **It is, therefore, important that all faculty members stay 'connected' with the Faculty Senate by staying informed and by providing input and comments via the Senators who represent them in the Faculty Senate.**

**Please note that the Faculty Senate website (<http://senate.utk.edu/>) has been reorganized.** Please make sure to familiarize yourself with the new layout so that you will know where to find all current and past Faculty Senate documents and reports.

The **calendar for all 2011-12** meetings of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Council are posted here: <http://senate.utk.edu/calendar/>

### Important Resources on the Faculty Senate Website:

#### a. Links to Minutes, Agendas, Reports etc. for 2011-12

Main Page: <http://senate.utk.edu/current-session/archives-2011-2012/>

**Please make sure to scroll down to the bottom of this page in order to see the updates for all areas.**

Please check frequently for updates regarding the work of Faculty Senate because new items will be added as they become available!

Archived Senate Reports, Minutes & Publications are organized by academic year and can be found here: <http://senate.utk.edu/archives/>

- b. Links to the **Agenda for the November 21, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting** (<http://senate.utk.edu/files/2011/09/FSAgenda-11-21-111.pdf> ), and to **Faculty Senate President's Report for November 2011** (<http://senate.utk.edu/files/2011/09/1-Faculty-Senate-President-Report-11-21-11.pdf> ).

→ **IMPORTANT: Make Your Voice Be Heard!!**  
**Provide Input & Feedback via the Senators from YOUR Unit!**

- a. The List of all 2011-12 Senators (incl. contact info) is posted here: <http://senate.utk.edu/files/2011/07/Membership-2012-2014-with-email-addresses5.pdf>
- b. All 2011-12 Senate Committee Assignments are posted here: <http://senate.utk.edu/files/2011/07/Committees-2011-201213.pdf>.
- c. The List of all 2011-12 Faculty Senate Caucus Leaders is posted here: <http://senate.utk.edu/files/2011/07/Faculty-Senate-Caucus-Leaders-2011-2012.pdf> .
- d. Contact information for the 2011-12 Faculty Senate President, Vince Anfara, and for all other Faculty Senate Officers in 2011-12 is posted here: <http://senate.utk.edu/senate-officers-2011-2012/> .