

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
March 5, 2012

Absent: Caula Beyl, Doug Birdwell, Robyn Blakeman, Doug Blaze, Stan Bowie, Hoan Bui, Patricia Carter, Feng Chen, Chris Cimino, Christopher Clark, Jim Conant, Paul Crilly*, Lt. Brian Delamater, Seddik Djouadi, Todd Freeberg, Alberto Garcia, Matthew Gray, Martin Griffin, Lee Han, Michael Handelsman*, Joan Heminway, Jennifer Hendricks, Tricia Hepner, Bill Hofmeister, Wonjae Hwang, Robert Jones, Ron Kalafsky, Kurt Lamour, Baldwin Lee, Susan Martin, Mary McAlpin, Bharat Mehra, Lane Morris, Carole Myers, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Lynne Parker, Joan Rentsch, W. Tim Rogers, Avigail Sach, Fernando Schwartz, Carla Sommardahl, Carrie Stephens, Otis Stephens, Michael Stewart, Sam Swan, Matthew Theriot, Donna Thomas

Alternates: Gichingiri Ndirigi for Michael Handelsman, Tse-Wei Wang for Paul Crilly

V. Anfara called the Senate to order at 3:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of a Quorum (J. Deeken)

J. Deeken announced a quorum was present.

President's Report (V. Anfara)

See handout. No oral report. The President's time was deferred to the Chancellor for his report.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

Chancellor Cheek reported on his strategic priorities for UTK. They are: enhancing education, research and outreach and diversity. UTK is the flagship institution of the UT System. Its goal is to become a Top 25 Public Research University. We are different from any other campus in the System. The Board meeting in June recognized this by giving a 5% raise to faculty, staff and graduate students; approving UTK's master plan, and Vol Vision. UTK is already in the Top 25 in the SAT and ACT scores of our students. We graduate more undergraduates than ANY (public or private) university in Tennessee. Ninety percent (90%) of the freshman class is from Tennessee and they are being encouraged to graduate in 4 years. Fourteen percent (14%) of the freshmen are from families making less than \$20,000 and they are graduating without any debt. In the last several years, there has been a distinct and measurable shift to the STEM degrees. The Bredesen Center (CIRE) program is helping with this. There is also an emphasis on experiential learning. Civility on campus remains a high priority. Since Athletics now reports to the Provost, D. Hart (Vice-Chancellor and Athletic Director) will work toward the improvement in the academic and athletic success of UTK in the next few years. UTK's portion of the Campaign for Tennessee was \$610 million. We raised \$860 million. There will be more fund raising in the future dedicated to named professorships and similar positions.

UTK has lost approximately \$60 million in state funding in the last few years. Tuition has gone up, but UTK is a bargain when compared to Top 25 institutions. Only 48% of the students leaving UTK have any student debt and the average amount is less than \$20,000.

The Top 25 institutions have 75% graduation in 6 years. If the current progress continues, UTK should reach that goal in 2017.

In comparing UTK to other Top 25 universities, salaries for full professors show more divergence than any other category.

Chancellor Cheek was praised for keeping the communication lines working toward the goal of improving life for the faculty.

One Senator felt that the quality of the recent graduate students was not good. In response Chancellor Cheek talked about the recent CIRE graduate students (in conjunction with ORNL). A number of high quality graduate students were attracted to UTK.

There are 64 VolVision groups that have met and made recommendations. The Provost and the Chancellor are working to prioritize the recommendations of the groups.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

There was no report from the Provost so that time could be used by Chancellor Cheek.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Minutes

Acceptance of the minutes of the February 6, 2012, Senate meeting were moved by D. Atkins, seconded by L. Davis and approved unanimously.

Faculty Senate Executive Council

The minutes of the February 20, 2012, meeting were distributed as an information item.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Undergraduate Council (G. Kaplan)

G. Kaplan reported on the January 31, 2012, meeting. The full minutes are posted (and total over 150 pages). Highlights follow. The Council approved new 5 year BA/MA programs in French and German. The Advising Committee noted the need for advisors to have access to the student view of the timetable showing enrollment and wait list information. The issue was referred to OIT.

All new classes (with one exception) were approved.

The Undergraduate Council will discuss the lack of term limits for committee chairs at their next meeting.

The minutes of the Undergraduate Council were approved unanimously.

Graduate Council (M. Zemel)

M. Zemel reported on the February 2, 2012, Graduate Council meeting. The Academic Policy Committee approved a thesis and dissertation embargo period which allows students to delay submission of their thesis. That committee also approved the 5 year BA/MA programs in French and German. They also approved the change to academic policy to accept unofficial transcripts for the admission process for foreign students.

No appeals have been filed with the Appeals Committee. Credentials were approved for all candidates to direct theses and/or dissertations.

The minutes of the Graduate Council were approved unanimously.

V. Anfara reported that the Undergraduate Council, the Graduate Council, and the Faculty Senate President are working on a policy for classes not taught in 5 years. Results of our work will be reported in the April or May Senate meetings.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

There was no previous business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Change (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas, Senate President-elect, brought forward the posted revision of the Senate by-laws regarding procedures for replacing the UTK member to the UTFC when that person is unable to complete their term. There was one "no" vote. Parliamentarian ruled that this constituted a 2/3 vote which is required to change or amend the Bylaws.

Appeals Committee/Panel (P. Daves)

P. Daves brought forward a proposed by-laws change regarding the Appeals Committee/Panel. The change involved naming to which person an appellant should submit their appeal. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (S. Thomas)

Thomas, reporting on behalf of the Committee on Nominations and Appointments, stated that over 20 faculty members have been contacted concerning standing for election for the position of President-Elect for 2013-14 and President for 2014-15. No one has agreed to accept the nomination. He read four anonymous responses which he said were typical.

"Thank you for the invitation for nomination for President-Elect of the Faculty Senate. I really feel honored to be considered for the position but after giving some thoughts to the idea, I have to decline the opportunity. With the constantly increasing teaching load, demands for research productivity, and current participation in already too many committees and task forces I just cannot afford to add anything else to my plate. I am sorry for not being able to step up and help you with the list of nominees but I am sure there are many UTK faculty deserving of the role and willing to serve."

"I'm flattered to be asked, and would seriously consider it, but I'm on leave next year and will be concentrating on research."

"I appreciate the offer, but there is no way I can do it. The demands of being a department head are just too great to take on another task as time-consuming as Faculty Senate President."

"Yes, I have been asked this previously, but my situation hasn't really changed. I'm really busy with my research, teaching, and existing service activities right now, and I can't free up sufficient time for this role right now. Perhaps it will change in the future, but the timing isn't right for me at this point."

Thomas stated that, after reviewing the Bylaws requirements for service in this role and the Senate committees and council memberships for the past five years, he is preparing a master list of potential candidates. When finished, he believes it will contain about 250 names, including all the Senators present in this meeting. While acknowledging that he was "preaching to the choir," he asked that everyone present discuss seriously with their colleagues about finding someone appropriate to accept this important role.

Concerning the slate of nominees for Senators in the class of 2015, Thomas reported that the committee was appropriately two-thirds done. At least one of the reasons the committee missed its February 15, 2012, deadline was that the report from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (required by the Bylaws for the apportionment of elected faculty senate seats) was requested in December 2011 and received on February 27, 2012. This report changed the provisional figures the committee had been using, reducing the number of seats available to two caucuses and raising the number of seats in two other caucuses.

Fair Use of Copyrighted Works (H. Mercer and T. Walker)

Holly Mercer and Teresa Walker from the Libraries gave a presentation on Fair Use and Copyright in light of the current Georgia Tech case. Slides from the presentation are attached to the agenda/minutes for this meeting. There is also a handout on this matter for Senators to use. Anfara reminded the Senators to watch for State Legislative updates. There will be discussion on guns on campus.

Faculty Senate Executive Council (V. Anfara)

The Senate Executive Council meets on Monday at 3:30 p.m. Anfara has heard from non-tenure track faculty that they feel excluded from the Faculty Senate. The Executive Council will discuss this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was called for by the Senate President, made by P. Daves, and seconded by S. Gilpatric to adjourn the meeting. The Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The Senate meeting was adjourned until April 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Deeken, Secretary