

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
November 21, 2011

Absent: Katherine Ambroziak, Itamar Arel, Caula Beyl, Robyn Blakeman, Stan Bowie, Feng Chen, Chris Cimino, Michael Clark, Jim Conant, Sherry Cox, Ruth Darling, Lloyd Davis, Lt. Brian Delamater, Seddik Djouadi, Gene Fitzhugh, Todd Freeberg, Alberto Garcia, Matthew Gray, Joanne Hall, Lee Han, Federico Harte, Joan Heminway, Jennifer Hendricks, Baoshan Huang, Wonjae Hwang, Becky Jacobs, Robert Jones, Ron Kalafsky, Kurt Lamour, Baldwin Lee, Alex Long, Brent Mallinckrodt, Bharat Mehra, Norma Mertz, Lane Morris, Lynne Parker, Randal Pierce, Joan Rentsch, W. Tim Rogers, Avigail Sach, Juergen Schumacher, Christina Shepardson*, Carrie Stephens, Otis Stephens, Michael Stewart, Sam Swan, Adam Taylor, Dwight Teeter, Klaus VanDenBerg, Mark Windham, Mike Zemel

*Alternates: Susan Speraw for Joanne Hall, Anthony Welch for Christina Shepardson, Gichingiri Ndigirigi

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)

Dan Murphy, our NCAA faculty athletics representative will speak to the Senate on February 6, 2012.

Anfara has met with the Faculty and Staff Ombudspersons. In accordance with the *Faculty Senate Bylaws*, he has invited them to address the Senate in the spring.

The Provost will speak further on the SAIS process. A letter jointly signed by the Provost and Anfara was sent to help increase response rates.

The UT Faculty Council met during the week of November 14. L. Brown from the Health Sciences Center is the coordinator of the system-wide strategic initiative for the UT campuses. L. Gross and J. Heminway are UTK's volunteers and more volunteers are needed. The group will meet from November through January, with the new system-level strategic plan in January or February.

Committees are being formed to cover the following areas:

1. Student Affairs/Student Services
2. Faculty Affairs
3. Academic Affairs
4. Staff Affairs
5. Research
6. External Affairs/Communications & Marketing
7. System-wide Support Systems
8. Leadership and Management
9. Outcome, Impact, Measurement & Reporting
10. Facilities and Infrastructure
11. Employer of Choice
12. Driving Investments and New Revenues

If anyone is interested in being on a committee, inform Anbara by November 22.

S. Gilpatric has assumed the Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

The Chancellor was unable to attend the meeting.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

Provost Martin began by reiterating Anbara's call for faculty volunteers for the UT System Strategic Plan. She reported that the Chancellor was attending a planning meeting for the next SACS reaffirmation and was unable to attend the Senate meeting.

SAIS (Student Assessment of Instruction System) has been open for less than a week and there is already a 32% response rate. The System has faults, but students need to complete their reviews. Professors are asked to monitor their individual response rates and make time for the students to complete them during class time. There will be more communication to the campus community before the system is closed on December 2.

The Provost is appointing a task force on peer review of teaching. There was a lively discussion on the topic at the new Academic Council meeting. SAIS may not be the optimal system. It doesn't tell us everything we need to know about the quality of instruction on campus. The campus will need to rethink faculty evaluation to improve instruction and/or share best practices for teaching.

There is a review of the graduate school admissions process. The current process is not working as well as we would like it to. The process was improved last year after a visit to Georgia Tech. They are streamlining the process with significant improvements that include a fully online process for some departments. There is now the ability to change credentials after admission and not just at submission. The knowledge base is being updated. Some changes will be in place this spring, with full implementation in Fall 2012.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Minutes

The minutes of the September 19, 2011, meeting were moved by P. Carter-Zagorski, seconded by D. Birdwell, and approved unanimously.

Faculty Senate Executive Council

The minutes of the October 3, 2011, meeting were distributed as an information item.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Undergraduate Council (G. Kaplan)

The Undergraduate Council met on October 25. Highlights were mentioned by G. Kaplan. Please refer to the Council minutes for details. The Provost was thanked for her follow up of the earlier meeting on SAIS. The Undergraduate Policy Committee discussed two issues. The first dealt with how UTrack handles more complicated issues such as readmitted students, transfer students, and double majors. The second issue was a change to the policy on grade replacement. The Council approved the highest grade made in a class will appear on the transcript.

Changes to the Advising Policy were tabled by the Undergraduate Council.

The group wondered if there were term limits in place for the members of the Graduate and/or Undergraduate Council.

There was no further discussion of the report and it passed unanimously.

Graduate Council

The Graduate Council met October 27, too late for the Executive Board to consider and bring to the Senate. They will meet again on February 2 and reports from both meetings will be voted on at the February 6, 2012, Faculty Senate meeting.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

There was no previous business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Guest Speaker (Dave Hart)

V. Anfara introduced Dave Hart, the new Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics. Mr. Hart appreciated the invitation to address the Faculty Senate. At prior institutions, he spoke to the Senate a few times per year.

Mr. Hart likes being part of the Chancellor's cabinet. He feels it is critically important to be part of the larger picture; to understand priorities. He realizes that while Athletics is not the most important thing on campus, it is often the most visible. He believes in accountability and responsibility. People often get their impression of a university by its sports. Mr. Hart has good assistants at UTK. Donna Thomas of the Thornton Center is playing an important role by providing a broad vision. John Gilbert has been at UTK for only two weeks as the Senior Executive Assistant for the Athletics Department. Mr. Hart learned much by osmosis from his father who stressed that how one treats people matters. Listen, communicate—treat others as you would like to be treated.

His goal is to make UT Athletics more of a student/athlete program. This is a very high priority for him. But he is working with 17-22 year old people. Not all their (the students) decisions will be good ones. Hart wants to help students understand when they make a bad choice; it really affects the reputation of the institution they represent. He wants to help them make better decisions—academically, socially, and in athletics.

Mr. Hart wants to help athletes get a degree in their field of choice. Most want to go pro, even if statistically their chance is small. The degree isn't lost even if they do go pro. This is not lip service to Mr. Hart. He is passionate in his belief in the student/athlete. Coaches have a strong effect on the players and they should be focused on helping the player with both athletics and academics.

Mr. Hart spoke earlier on the 21st with the "Quarterback Club." He felt that was a good experience. Members asked many questions on competition. Hart suspects many Senators feel an effect after losses.

It is amazing that the top three football programs in the country are all from the SEC—and from one Division of the SEC. As of late December, the record for those three programs was 30-2 and the losses were only to each other. UTK losses at this point were to teams that have a collective win/loss record of 48-6. The team has been battling through adversity. Saturday night he could feel the enthusiasm in the stadium. Hart believes he is competitive to a fault. He was glad to see the fan base in a celebratory mood. Monday's are driven by Saturday's. Today was a good day.

M. McAlpin asked a question related to the noise level in the stadium. She teaches a class on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 11:00-1:45. Twice her class has been assaulted by noise from the stadium. Hart replied that it is not atypical of a sporting event. The team often can't hear in other stadiums and needs to practice with a simulation so they can learn how to respond. McAlpin doesn't think this should be done during class hours. The Senate will discuss this later.

B. Lyons felt that coaches and the Athletic Department should stress the importance of academics for their athletes. Most will not become professionals. Could they include the student's major in the introductions? The Lady Vols do a better job at this than the Vols. Hart agreed to explore this suggestion.

P. Crilly found D. Hart's response about noise during class times to be bothersome. He suggests the team change either the time or the location of their practice.

Birdwell said that approximately two years ago, Athletics stopped giving credit (for the purpose of buying season tickets) for donations to the University academic programs. Hart responded that he does not know how donations are calculated for tickets at UTK. He will check with their development officer on this topic. He did point out that a high percentage of donors who start out donating to Athletics move on to donate to academics as well.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Anfara reminded the Senate that the next Executive Council meeting would be held January 23 and the next Senate meeting on February 6, 2012. He reminded the Senators about volunteering for the system strategic planning groups discussed earlier in the meeting. There are 12 task forces and many volunteers are needed. The bulk of the work will be November through January. Anfara must send the names to L. Brown by November 22.

J. Koontz asked who would serve as UTK's representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. COIA wants to ensure that athletes are treated as students and that expenses for athletics do not take support away from academics. The Senate budget will pay for a trip to the COIA in Tulsa in January 2012.

Koontz said that he attended a meeting of the Athletics Board. He wanted everyone to know that Hart's presentation had the same emphases as his discussion at today's Senate meeting. He spoke of the athletes as students with no discussion on topics such as facilities, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Myers moved adjournment. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Senate adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Deeken, Secretary