

System Relations Committee Meeting
Monday February 27, University Center Room 202, 3:30-4:30PM

MINUTES:

Members Present: Beauvais Lyons, Chair, Hillary Fouts, Doug Blaze, David Patterson (UTFC Representative).

Members Absent: Toby Boulet (UT Board of Trustees), Guoxun Chen, Lloyd Davis, Greg Petty, Tricia Hepner, Susan Speraw, Sam Swan, Svetlana Zivanovic,

Guest: George Cook, Chair, UT Faculty Council by conference call to (901) 448-6008

- 1. Approval of the Minutes:** from Wednesday January 18, 2011 were approved by consent.
- 2. UT Faculty Council,** discussion with George Cook. See the UTFC website for background information in preparation for the meeting, including recent meeting minutes: <http://web.utk.edu/~utfc/>

George Cook said that the council has had problems in the past conducting meetings that include the President in conjunction with Board of Trustees meetings. DiPietro has suggested that UTFC meet 2-3 times/year in Nashville, "piggy backing" off of other trips to Nashville for reports to a variety of commissions. He indicated that this would allow for a greater level of UTFC participation, as well as more extended discussions with President DiPietro. The next meeting will be on April 11th in Nashville. The most difficult meetings are winter meetings held outside of Knoxville.

Several UTFC members are involved with the UT System strategic planning process. One of the things they have been pushing for is to make sure all of the recommendations are available for review before they are prioritized.

George Cook expressed concern that the Board of Trustees is resistant to having Faculty Senate Presidents attend their meetings, or their receptions or meals. He expressed concern that the board members can be cut off from the faculty and student leadership in making decisions regarding policies and budgetary decisions. Beauvais Lyons recommended that the Council discuss this issue with President DiPietro at their April meeting.

George Cook said a number of campuses are looking at their faculty handbooks in relation to BOT policies. The UTM Faculty Handbook has had a decade of changes that were not run through the Office of General Counsel. A faculty retreat was initiated by Katie High to address some of these issues, which he said was very helpful.

George Cook said library access is an issue for some of the campuses. He said that President DiPietro was making an effort to work on this, especially for UTC and UTM as part of the system strategic plan.

He said that UTC, UTM, and UTK have budgets that are generally transparent, but

that UTHSC is more opaque. There was discussion of UTHSC not being a formula unit, with three different budgets, including (1) Family Medicine, (2) College of Medicine, and (3) a general budget from the state. He said tuition and grant dollars are mixed in the big pot of funds. Beauvais Lyons encouraged the UTFC to stress budgetary transparency as a best practices goal.

Finally, the UTFC website is being updated by a staff person who reports to India Lane, which is working well.

3. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday March 28, 2012 with Catherine Mizell, UT General Counsel. In response to a request from Beauvais Lyons, Doug Blaze said that he would look for an essay or editorial on the role of general counsel's in relation to universities for distribution in advance of the meeting.
4. **Adjournment** at 4:25pm