

Faculty Senate Executive Council
MINUTES
February 18, 2013

Members Present: Steve Thomas, David Golden, Vincent Anfara, Fritz Polite, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Ralph Brockett, Guoxun Chen, Chris Cimino, Phillip Daves, Scott Gilpatric, Lee Han, John Koontz, Bruce MacLennan, David Matthews, Steven Milewski, David Patterson, Lloyd Rinehart, Matthew Theriot

Guests: John Zomchick, Sally McMillan

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

President's Report (S. Thomas)

- The next University of Tennessee Faculty Council (UTFC) meetings will be held on February 27th and 28th in Chattanooga, in conjunction with the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee meeting and the Board of Trustees meeting on February 28th—March 1st.
- On February 1st, the Council on Diversity and Interculturalism met with Ricky Hall concerning preparations for him assuming the role of Vice Chancellor for Diversity in June.
- On February 7th, the Commission for Women received a report from a working group that recommended revising the current policy on "Consenting Romantic or Sexual Relationships" that currently appears as appendix 7 of our *Faculty Handbook*. We may wish to take a look at all the appendices to see if any others need to be updated or replaced.
- President-elect D. Golden spoke briefly of upcoming elections. The faculty FTE figures (needed to allocate Senate seats) were received last week from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. He will be working with the various caucuses concerning changes in allocations caused by the addition of non-tenure-track teaching faculty to the census.

Chancellor Cheek and Provost Martin were not present to present reports.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S. Thomas asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting of January 14, 2013. As no changes were suggested, the minutes were approved as distributed by common consent.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Undergraduate Council: Courses not Taught in Four Years (M. Theriot)

M. Theriot noted that the Undergraduate Council had addressed this issue during its February meeting.

V. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. Thomas noted that the Senate would be receiving two sets of minutes from the Undergraduate Council (for meetings on January 29, 2013, and February 26, 2013) and one set of minutes from the Graduate Council (for January 31, 2013). The Council chairs indicated that these minutes reflected a number of catalog/curriculum changes and a discussion of transfer policies.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Report of Online Learning Taskforce (S. McMillan)

S. McMillan briefly reviewed the "Report of the Online Taskforce" (dated December 13, 2012) containing thoughts about the direction of online learning at UTK. The report considered a number of needs (of faculty or departments and of students) and whether these needs (1) are being met by the existing resources; (2) require the expansion of existing resources; or (c) require the development of new resources. The report recommended the hiring of a Director of Online Programs "to assist with prioritization and development of all services." In response to a question, McMillan noted that the report did not address details (such as the methods for delivery of course content) since technology changes occur so rapidly.

By common consent, the report will be presented as information at the next Senate meeting.

Resolutions of Faculty Affairs Committee (P. Daves)

(a) New Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Classification

P. Daves presented a resolution recommending revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* to add a new type of non-tenure-track faculty position, "Faculty of Practice." This new classification had been requested by the Dean of the College of Engineering and supported by the Deans of Nursing, Business, and Law as a useful addition to our existing non-tenure-track positions of Lecturers, Clinical Faculty, and Research Faculty. Daves noted that the version of the resolution presented at this meeting contained one typographical error: the rank "instructor of practice" was present in section 4.2.4 but missing from the list in section 4.1.4.

By common consent, the resolution will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

(b) Lecturer Promotion Guidelines

P. Daves then presented a resolution recommending revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* to establish the details of the promotion review process for lecturers. The process generally parallels the promotion process tenure-track and tenured faculty. These changes formalize the process that has been in use since the creation of the rank of senior lecturer two years ago. Daves noted that the version of the resolution presented at this meeting contained some unclear usages of "NTTF" or "NTT faculty." Also, in two places the phrase "evidence of outstanding teaching" has been used when the preferred wording would be "evidence of excellence in teaching." These usages would be replaced in the version presented to the Senate. Each unit will need to define within its bylaws which faculty ranks would be eligible to serve on each promotion review committee.

By common consent, the resolution will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

Proposed Revision to Faculty Senate Athletics Committee Charge (J. Koontz)

J. Koontz noted that, to his knowledge, this matter was the first time the Athletics Committee had presented an issue to the Senate. The proposal in question would revise the committee's charge, primarily reflecting the merge of the men's and women's athletic departments.

By common consent, the proposal will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

J. Koontz also took this opportunity to report that time will be allotted for candidates for the position of Director of the Thornton Center to meet and take questions from faculty. He encouraged everyone able to take part in these interviews to do so.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee: Response to Chancellors' Letter (S. Milewski)
S. Milewski presented the committee's draft response to the letter from Chancellors Cheek and Arrington that had been presented at the February Senate meeting.

By common consent, the committee's response will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

Resolution Regarding *Faculty Handbook* and *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* Changes Concerning Scale Used for Faculty Performance Review

S. Thomas reported that there was a last-minute addition to the agenda, involving the resolution, recommending revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* related to the scale used for faculty performance review, passed during the February Senate meeting. J. Zomchick had been informed by L. Young that the Office of General Counsel had some suggestions for simplifying the proposed revisions to the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation*. In order to present the proposed revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* to the Board of Trustees during the meeting on March 1, 2013, it would be necessary to separate the proposed changes to the *Faculty Handbook* from the proposed changes to the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation*. Zomchick also reported that it was the opinion of L. Young that – once the handbook changes had been approved by the Board of Trustees – the manual changes could be implemented through the administrative route, since these changes would be implementing changes approved by the Board.

Given that the next Senate meeting would be on March 4th (after the meeting of the Board of Trustees), S. Thomas ruled that the Senate's *Bylaws* (III. A. 2) allowed the Executive Council to act on behalf of the Senate to divide the proposed *Faculty Handbook* changes from the proposed *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* changes, as suggested by the Office of General Counsel. This course of action was accepted by common consent and will be reported to the Senate during the meeting on March 4th.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.