

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
September 24, 2012

Absent: Joe Bailey, Robyn Blakeman, Donna Braquet, Hoan Bui, Patricia Carter, Feng Chen, Chris Cimino, Michael Clark, Paul Crilly, Lloyd Davis, Lt. Brian Delamater, Seddik Djouadi, Jerzy Dydak, Todd Freeberg, Alberto Garcia, Denise Gardner, David Golden, Iris Goodwin, Matthew Gray, Martin Griffin, John Haas, Joanne Hall*, Federico Harte, Noriko Horiguchi, Sadie Hutson, Wonjae Hwang, Mike Jones, Ron Kalafsky, Kurt Lamour, Bob Legg, Bharat Mehra, Stephanie Noble, Tulio Prado, Eleanor Read, W. Tim Rogers, Fernando Schwartz, Steve Smith, Curtis Stewart, Mark Windham, Songning Zhang, Mary Ziegler

Alternates*: Susan Speraw for Joanne Hall

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of a Quorum (F. Polite)

Although a quorum was not present, he began the meeting in hopes that a quorum would be reached before the first action item.

President's Report (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas referred to his written report, available on the Senate's website. He highlighted two items from that report:

- The 2012 edition of the *Faculty Handbook* has been posted on the Provost's website. The newly approved *Resources Manual* and an updated version of the Senate's *Bylaws* have been posted on the Senate's website.
- He had received word that Dr. Henry Frandsen, Professor Emeritus of The University of Tennessee and former President of the Faculty Senate, had died on September 6, 2012.

Thomas added a reminder that caucus chairs were to have been selected and reported to the president by August 1st. To date, only three caucuses have reported. All other caucuses should fulfill this responsibility as soon as possible, with Monday, October 8th as the new deadline. As discussed during the Senate retreat, last year's caucus chairs need to call a meeting of current caucus members.

After asking Past-President Vincent Anfara to come forward, S. Thomas read the following resolution recognizing his service:

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Faculty Senate

WHEREAS, Vincent A. Anfara, Jr., P.H.D., is a highly respected colleague, teacher, scholar, and citizen within and beyond the University community, as recognized by his reception of the Richard Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award from the Middle Level Education

Research Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2011-2012 academic year, maintaining the reputation of the Faculty Senate through his diligent leadership and capable representation of faculty issues at the campus, system, and board levels; and

WHEREAS, he has left and continues to leave his mark on higher education in the State of Tennessee through his thoughtful interactions with administrators, faculty, staff, and students on and outside the campus; and

WHEREAS, he has also served the Faculty Senate and the faculty of this campus as a member of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates and the UT Faculty Council and as a member and chair of various Faculty Senate, campus, and University committees and task forces;

THEFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to

Vincent A. Anfara, Jr., Ph.D.

for his exemplary leadership and service to the Faculty Senate and The University of Tennessee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be presented to Vincent A. Anfara, Jr., Ph.D, and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on September 24, 2012.

Fritz Polite
Secretary

Steve R. Thomas
President

Thomas suggested that the acceptance of the resolution be indicated by a round of applause, which was given.

Thomas noted that there would be no report from Chancellor Cheek today because he is out of town attending a meeting of the International Fertilizer Development Center of which he is a board member.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

S. Martin addressed the following topics:

- The Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center established four years ago to seek ways to improve teaching and learning results, is undergoing a program review. Such review is typical of all academic and non-academic units. We need to determine how resources are being used and how priorities are being set to maximize impact. The Teaching and Learning Council is involved in this review. Broad input is desired from all faculty members, who are the primary constituents of the Center.
- John Zomchick is working on revisions to the promotion process for non-tenure track lecturers. A proposal should be presented soon to the Faculty Affairs Committee.
- A question had been raised during the recent meeting of the Executive Council concerning a resolution passed by the Senate in April requesting action by the Board of Trustees to expand the definition of academic freedom to include protection for shared governance activities. She expects a response will be coming soon from Chancellor Cheek on this matter.
- A wellness program for faculty and staff is a development with involvement from many parts of the campus community: nutrition, nursing, kinesiology, etc.
- The Council of Deans is considering the status of interdisciplinary programs and, in particular, how to remove barriers to such work. One problem is a lack of information about the available possibilities. The Senate might wish to consider this topic for discussion. Martin would be interested to hear from anyone wishing to take part in this evaluation.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Minutes

S. Thomas noted that a quorum was now present, in time for consideration of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting on May 7, 2012. He asked if there were any questions about or revisions suggested to these minutes. It was noted that the review of Graduate Council minutes did not indicate the date of that meeting. S. Thomas suggested that the final sentence in the section be changed to read as: "The minutes of the meeting on April 12, 2012 were accepted unanimously." This change was accepted by common consent. A motion to approve these minutes as revised was made by J. Koontz and seconded by P. Daves. Motion passed by voice vote.

Faculty Senate Executive Council

Minutes from the September 10, 2012, meeting of the Executive Council were received as information.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Undergraduate Council (M. Theriot)

M. Theriot presented the minutes from the September 4, 2012, meeting of the Undergraduate Council. These minutes included minor catalog edits and corrections implemented over the summer and a report of the Curriculum Committee outlining changes (effective Fall 2013) for the College of Business Administration, Department of Statistics, Operations and Management Science; College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, Service Learning Honors Program; Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education, English Language Learning Minor; and University Studies Program. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Letter from Chancellors Cheek and Arrington Concerning Resolution on Support for Benefit Equality

In the absence of the Chancellors, S. Thomas read the letter (posted on the Senate's website prior to the meeting) that had been offered in response to the resolution adopted by the Senate on April 2, 2012. He then opened the floor for discussion of the letter.

The general tone of that discussion was that the letter did not fully address the issues raised within the resolution. For example, no information was provided about which state laws or policies are preventing such equality actions from being taken. There is no indication what avenues for further dialogue on the subject are available. How much latitude (if any) does the campus have to create policies that apply only to our own employees? The brevity of the response was considered shocking and inconsistent with statements that diversity is valued on this campus. Receiving such a short response, with no discussion or advocacy for an open discussion should be deemed unacceptable.

S. Milewski, Chair of the Benefits and Professional Development Committee, stated that the committee had not met since the letter was released but would consider the letter during its next scheduled meeting. He noted that the documentation supplied with the resolution addressed many of the concerns being raised in this meeting: e.g., what policies our peers and aspirational peers have in place?

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Faculty Affairs Committee (P. Daves)

P. Daves presented a resolution that proposed various revisions to the Faculty Senate *Bylaws* that would allow for the possibility of lecturers and clinical instructors to serve as members in the Faculty Senate and to vote on the election of senators. Since revisions to the *Bylaws* require advance notice of 28 days, a vote on this resolution will not take place until the October meeting of the Senate.

Lecturers and clinical instructors are excluded from serving as senators or voting for senators because of *Bylaw* requirements specifying a rank, or equivalent rank, of assistant professor or higher. Clinical or research professors (also non-tenure track faculty) with the required equivalent rank are already eligible to take part in these activities. The proposed changes would allow non-tenure track teaching faculty whose ranks are different the same level of representation in the governance processes by adding those ranks to the sections of the *Bylaws* addressing (1) eligibility to serve as senators; (2) the census upon which apportionment of senate seats is based; and (3) eligibility to vote for senators. Two additional changes would allow service by research faculty with equivalent rank on the Research Council and service by lecturers and clinical instructors, or faculty with equivalent rank, on the Undergraduate Council. To allow immediate representation of lecturers or clinical instructors within the Faculty Senate, a special election will be conducted for ten at-large senators from nominations assembled by the Non Tenure Track Advisory Group. In future elections, lecturers and clinical instructors would be eligible to participate on the same basis as other faculty.

The floor was opened for discussion.

- Tenured and tenure-track faculty positions are relatively stable. Would adding non-tenure track faculty open us to wider swings in apportionment of senate seats? Possibly, but available data does not suggest a problem. Many lecturers have held year-by-year appointment for many years.
- How has this proposal been vetted? Discussions have been going on for approximately two years, starting with the Non Tenure Track Advisory Group.

- How has this issue been handled by our peer institutions? Many of our peer and aspirational peers include non-tenure track faculty in shared governance in some form.
- How will this change the size and composition of the Senate? It is estimated that the changes to apportionment might add fifteen to twenty seats to the Senate overall. It is not clear which caucuses will gain representation. No caucuses will loss representation.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Thomas noted that the Senate's *Bylaws* (Article II Section 9) call for appointments to the Senate's various committees and councils to be ratified at the Senate's regular September meeting. He asked if there were any questions or suggestions for changes to these appointments. In answer to a question (Are there any committees that need additional members to function?), Thomas replied that there were two committees that were each one member short of the size prescribed within the *Bylaws*. These shortages are due in part to the fact that we failed to fill four senate seats during the most recent election. A motion was made to accept the committee and council appointments as listed on the Senate's website. This motion received a second and passed by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fritz Polite, Secretary