

## FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

April 7, 2014

Absent: Benjamin Auerbach, Joe Bailey, Theodore Brown, Jr., Gregory Button, Vincent Carilli, Chris Cimino, Jim Conant, Matthew Cooper, Ray Degennaro, Mary Derrington, Ian Down, Alberto Garcia, Lauren Gellar, John Haas, Tricia Hepner, Noriko Horiguchi, William Jennings, Mike Jones, Dean Kopsell, Kurt Lamour, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Bob Legg, Fangxing (Fran) Li, Joseph Majdalani, Susan Martin, Angela McClure, Bharat Mehra, Samantha Murphy, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Stephen Paddison, Tulio Prado, Nathan Preuss, Eleanor Read, Jennifer Richards, Fernando Schwartz, Marlys Staudt, Curtis Stewart, Ahmal Vakili, Micheline Westfall, Mark Windham

### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Quorum was established by J. Poore.

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by D. Golden at 3:30 p.m.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

- Faculty and staff development campaign has been very successful, almost 50% pledged contributions.
- Governor Haslam has stressed the importance of education in the state, but added that his greatest challenge has been funding. Due to decreased revenues, the state is short of resources (business tax collection) and the governor was forced to eliminate proposed salary increases for higher education. The proposed \$12M increase to UTK has also been reduced by \$4M; however, our budget is not lower than the previous year. J. Cheek indicated that he will bring forth a plan for salary increases this year.
- J. Cheek stated that we need to enhance our admissions process and make students feel more welcome. We are moving towards 68% graduation on time and an 85% retention rate. We need to help students solve problems with academic coaching programs, invest more in honors programs, and investigate tuition and fees for the coming year.
- There is much construction activity on campus, including demolition of several old buildings (Gibbs Hall, Stokely Athletic Center, Strong Hall, and Shelbourne Towers) to make way for new classroom and laboratory facilities, new residence halls, a 1,000 car parking garage, and an outdoor football practice field. Construction is also progressing well on the new Student Union. An 800-car parking garage will be added to the Institute of Agriculture campus as soon as we have the funds to do it.
- There are concerns about proposed changes to the Hope Scholarship and TN Promise programs. In regards to the Governor's plan to fully fund tuition for students for two years at community colleges, we need to make sure that students who intend to transfer to UTK have a plan and understand our academic standards. J. Cheek has been working with Pellissippi State Community College (PSCC) to develop more specific pathways for students. The Volunteer Bridge program with PSCC that provides dual enrollment and transfer from PSCC to UTK, has been successful and they are looking at additional agreements. Allocation of the Hope Scholarship to students may be changed to

\$3500/\$3500/\$4500/\$4500 per year over the 4-year period. This scholarship is important to ensure that our best and brightest students remain in Tennessee. Currently, students are no longer eligible for the scholarship when they accumulate 120 credit hours before their 8<sup>th</sup> semester. Our administration is asking TN legislators to not penalize students if they reach 120 hours before their 8<sup>th</sup> semester; we are requesting that students be given eight full semesters of eligibility or 120 credit hours, whichever is the longest.

- J. Cheek supports making Pell grants available to students for summer semester; currently, they are available for fall and spring semesters. If Pell grants were available in summer, students would be able to graduate sooner. Senator Lamar Alexander is supporting this change.
- M. Breinig asked about the status of renovations to older university buildings. J. Cheek said that they are working on it and gave examples. K. Wong asked whether he foresaw a decrease in the number of freshmen due to the TN Promise program, and J. Cheek responded that he did not. He also indicated that 25% of our students come from families with an income less than \$40K, and that we have a high percentage of students with Pell grants. He stated that we are committed to helping the best students find a way to pay for their education. His concern is that students who go to community colleges will not be clear on the expectations of UTK. However, the program changes will not start until August of 2015, which gives us time to implement new strategies to support student success.

#### Provost's Report (S. Martin)

S. Martin was unable to attend.

#### President's Report (D. Golden)

- Regarding the TN Promise program, D. Golden said that we must convey to students the benefits of attending a residential university.
- D. Golden indicated that many responded to his call for letters (over 4,000) to TN senators about proposed legislation that would limit engagement of outside speakers at UT. The letters had a significant impact and those two were withdrawn.
- D. Golden stated that UT must respond to the joint senate resolution that tasked the Board of Trustees to oversee how student activity fees are dispersed. To address this, the Resolution Implementation Task Force has been established, and D. Golden is serving on it.
- J. Cheek has appointed D. Golden to a committee on university identity (branding). D. Fox asked whether he will report back to the Faculty Senate on these committee activities, and he indicated that he would file reports through Blackboard.

#### **IV. MINUTES**

M. Albrecht made a motion to accept the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of February 17, 2014. The motion was seconded by P. Carter-Zagorski. There was no discussion, the motion passed and the minutes were approved as written. D. Fox made a motion to accept the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of March 3, 2014. The motion was seconded by J. Koontz. There was no discussion, the motion passed and the minutes were approved as written.

The unapproved minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting of March 24, 2014, have been posted for review. These will be approved at the next Executive Council meeting (April 23, 2014).

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### Nominations and Appointments Committee (J. Hall)

- Elections update - Several Faculty Senate elections need to be completed. Candidates for President-elect will be finalized at the end of the week. M. Breinig about whether units needed to conduct elections if there were less candidates than seats. J. Hall replied that the elections must be done to comply with Faculty Senate bylaws.
- D. Golden added that there are two candidates for UT Faculty Council, which will also be on the ballot.

### Graduate Council (D. Hodges)

- D. Hodges gave highlights of the Graduate Council minutes of Jan 30, 2014, which are posted at <http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/gcouncilminutes.shtml>. The Credentials Committee approved 18 faculty to direct dissertations. The Curriculum Committee approved multiple courses additions, revisions, and drops; many of the dropped courses were due to course name changes. M. Albrecht moved to approve the Graduate Council meeting minutes of January 30<sup>th</sup>, and the motion passed.

### Resolutions Committee (D. Golden)

- D. Golden presented a resolution to honor B. Jacobs for her contributions as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate (2008-2013). L. Rinehart moved that the resolution be approved, and J. Koontz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

*The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*  
*Faculty Senate*

**WHEREAS**, *Becky L. Jacobs, J.D., is a highly respected colleague, teacher, and researcher; and*

**WHEREAS**, *she served with distinction as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate during the academic years 2008-2013; and*

**WHEREAS**, *as Parliamentarian, she demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the rules of order and the traditions of the Faculty Senate;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** *the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to*

**Becky L. Jacobs**

*for her outstanding and devoted service to the Faculty Senate and the University of Tennessee; and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** *a copy of this Resolution be presented to Professor Jacobs and that the Resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on April 7, 2014.*

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David A. Golden  
President

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Joanne M. Hall  
President-Elect

- D. Golden presented a resolution to honor F. Polite for his contributions as Secretary of the Faculty Senate (2012-2013). J. Koontz moved that the resolution be approved, and M. Collins seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

***The University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Faculty Senate***

**WHEREAS,** *Fritz G. Polite, Ph.D. is a highly respected colleague and teacher; and*

**WHEREAS,** *he served with distinction as Secretary of the Faculty Senate from 2012—2013;  
and*

**WHEREAS,** *he has provided outstanding service to the Faculty Senate;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** *the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to*

**Fritz G. Polite**

*for his outstanding and devoted service to the Faculty Senate and the University of Tennessee; and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** *a copy of this Resolution be presented to Clinical Assistant Professor Polite and that the Resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on April 7, 2014.*

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David A. Golden  
President

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Joanne M. Hall  
President-Elect

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Benefits and Professional Development Committee – Resolution for Tuition Assistance Benefit Equity (D. Braquet)

D. Braquet presented a resolution that outlined various reasons that tuition assistance should be granted to domestic partners of employees regardless of gender and to the children of domestic partners. The resolution requested that the Office of the Provost, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Vice President for Human Resources, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, and the Benefits Advisory Group meet with the Benefits and Professional Development Committee of the Faculty Senate to evaluate this benefit inequity and respond to the Senate by September 2014. A. Saxton moved that the resolution be approved, and the motion passed. The resolution is posted on the Faculty Senate website.

### Non-Tenure-Track Issues Committee/Faculty Affairs Committee – Faculty and Family Leave Policy Proposal (S. Harris)

- S. Harris worked with D. Braquet to craft a resolution that extends benefits provided in the Faculty and Family Leave Policy to tenure-track faculty, to non-tenure track faculty, and to domestic partners. The 'two event' career limit for arrival of a child has also been removed. The resolution is posted on the Faculty Senate website.
- D. Carter asked whether the previous resolution had language about family members that were not recognized by the State of Tennessee. S. Harris read the definition of domestic partners provided in the resolution, and gave the documentation required to prove the relationship. D. Braquet added that this definition is not listed in the other resolution because it is more related to those whose marriages are recognized in states outside of Tennessee. J. Hall stated that it is confusing because the phrase 'marriage according to the state of Tennessee' is not included. Harris suggested that rather than 'marriage', the phrase 'marriage contract' be substituted. Braquet indicated a preference to change the footnote defining 'domestic partners' but not the resolution. V. Mayfield suggested that the word 'contract' not be included. K. Newkirk asked whether the phrase, 'related by marriage' could mean your brother-in-law. J. Fowler suggested that the wording be 'those who have a marriage certificate recognized in another state'. Braquet said that the statement had been borrowed from other universities who have this benefit. K. Wong suggested that the wording in the footnote be changed to 'not related to the other', rather than 'not related to the other by blood or marriage'. D. Gardner stated that she noticed a difference in the definition of domestic partners between the two resolutions, and suggested that language from the tuition assistance resolution should be added to the benefits resolution.
- To summarize the suggested revision, the phrase "If warranted by serious faculty illness or by illness of a child, parent, spouse, or domestic partner for whom a faculty member has primary care-giving responsibility, modifications in the faculty member's service...." was revised to "If warranted by serious faculty illness or by illness of a child, parent, spouse, same-gendered spouse not recognized by the state of Tennessee or domestic partner for whom a faculty member has primary care-giving responsibility, modifications in the faculty member's service..." The change was considered a friendly amendment. S. Harris moved that the resolution be approved, and the motion passed.

#### Resolution on Student Activity Fees (Martin Griffin)

- M. Griffin explained that the resolution does not request that we take a stand on the nature of student activities, or reform student activities programming or funding, but the resolution is focused on protection and retention of student decision making, collection and disbursement of fees, and protection of free speech rights on campus. Griffin recognized J. Heminway for her contributions to the resolution. The resolution is posted on the Faculty Senate website.
- M. Griffin moved that the resolution be approved, and T. Shepardson seconded the motion. J. Fowler spoke in favor of it. The motion passed with one abstention. D. Golden will present the approved resolution to the Resolution Implementation Task Force tomorrow.

#### New compliance software implementation (R. Nobles)

R. Nobles was introduced as the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Compliance at UTK. He reported that he has been updating systems for electronic submission of protocols to the various research compliance offices. He has been working with the UT Health Science Center in Memphis to use the software, Integrated Research Information Systems, (iMedRIS), that they have been using, for our compliance committees because a web-based trackable database was needed. The module for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) should be in place in fall 2014. Training will be available, as well as a software helpline, and web tutorials. He has implemented this system before in his previous position at the University of Texas. An information sheet is posted on the Faculty Senate website.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by D. Golden at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie H. Ownley,  
Secretary