

Faculty Senate Executive Council  
MINUTES  
April 23, 2014

Present: Guoxun Chen, Jennifer Fowler, David Golden, Joanne Hall, Sally Harris, John Koontz, Jon Levin, Bruce MacLennan, Susan Martin, Bharat Mehra, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Bonnie Ownley, David Patterson, Randall Pierce, Lloyd Rinehart, Tina Shepardson, and Steve Thomas

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

D. Golden called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m., after establishing that a quorum was present.

### **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

J. Cheek was unable to attend.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

- S. Martin will meet with the Budget and Planning Committee to give a report on academic affairs. She will summarize the \$11M in requests that she has received at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- J. Cheek is interested in enhancing our student recruitment process to ensure that we have high quality recruits. The Admissions Office may need additional personnel to accomplish this. Administration is waiting to see what changes the Tennessee Promise program will bring, but they remain committed to enhancing ethnic and economic diversity, and they want to ease the pathway for transfer students. They want to maintain scholarship support for students.
- S. Martin has received the resolution from the Faculty Senate on modified duties for lecturers and is working on a response.
- S. Martin wants to resume the conversation on recognition of teaching, however she does not think that the Provost Office should be the one who selects the 'teacher of the month'.
- S. Martin would like to increase the number of out-of-state students, however, they feel that tuition may already be too high for that group. Recruiters for UT are established in major cities, such as Charlotte, NC, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, GA, and the numbers of applications have increased.

President's Report (D. Golden)

- See sections under New Business.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

D. Golden asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of March 24, 2014. D. Patterson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. J. Hall seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **V. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

There were no reports from special committees.

## **VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Appeals Committee (B. MacLennan)

There are two cases under review.

Athletics Committee (J. Koontz)

No report was available from the committee; however, J. Koontz indicated that Coach C. Martin had received the "Outstanding Coach Award" at the recent Athletics Department awards banquet.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (D. Braquet)

No report was available.

Budget and Planning Committee (R. Pierce)

No report was available.

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

UT General Council has recommended that the changes proposed in the Academic Freedom statement be added to the shared governance section of the Faculty Handbook. The changes relate to speaking in the context of shared governance. S. Harris and T. Shepherdson recommended minor editorial changes to improve clarity and correct typos. The Academic Freedom statement was accepted by common consent and will be brought forward to the Faculty Senate at the next meeting (May 5, 2014).

Graduate Council (D. Hodges)

No report was available.

Library and Information Technology Committee (B. Mehra)

No report was available.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (J. Hall)

J. Hall gave an update on Senate caucus elections. One caucus is voting this week and two more are finishing their procedures. There are two nominees for the position on the UT Faculty Council, Candace White and Steve Thomas. There are also two candidates for President-elect, JoAnn Deeken and Bruce MacLennan.

Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (S. Harris)

The committee is looking at opportunities for Research Assistant Professors to apply and obtain internal grant funding. S. Harris expressed thanks to everyone on the FS Executive Council for their edits/suggestions for the resolution on Faculty Family Leave Policy.

Research Council (T. Shepardson)

Council had their final meeting and concluded business for the year. They edited the Faculty Senate bylaws (Article III, Section 2, Part J) that addressed the Research Council, mainly to allow lecturers to participate and update various title changes. The document is posted on the Faculty Senate website. The past Chair will continue as an ex-officio member to allow

continuity. Information related to the review of university research centers and units has been updated. Discussion followed on the updated bylaws document. The proposed bylaw changes were approved. The Research Council presented Greg Reed (Associate Vice Chancellor of Research) with a plaque to commemorate his work with the Council for many years.

#### Teaching and Learning Council (L. Rinehart)

Council encountered the issue of faculty who were nominated for teaching awards who do not teach in the spring semester, and therefore cannot be observed for evaluation. However, none of the nominees in that situation made the final cut, so it was not a problem.

#### Undergraduate Council (J. Levin)

Council has passed hundreds of curriculum changes, which are now posted. Faculty Senate must approve the changes and these will be included on the agenda for the May 5, 2014, meeting. In addition, Richard Bennett will run for Vice-chair of the Undergraduate Council.

#### University System Relations Committee (G. Chen)

The committee met with Katie High and discussed the issue of out-of-state tuition for students receiving graduate fellowships. Members were invited to visit Oak Ridge National Labs. G. Chen will provide information on the two previous meetings of the committee for the Faculty Senate website.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

#### Titles for Extension Faculty (D. Golden)

There has been a request to create non-tenure-track titles for UTIA extension faculty that include the ranks of assistant, associate, and full professor. These faculty have the necessary credentials for faculty rank. D. Golden referred this request to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

#### Student Activity Fee Implementation Task Force (D. Golden)

The Board of Trustees will have oversight on use of student activity fees. UT must provide a statement to students that some student programming activities may be offensive. The joint TN Senate resolution suggested that students be given the choice to 'opt in' for these activities. UT will request that students choose 'yes' or 'no'. Not 'opting in' does not mean that the student will not be required to pay these fees; it means the fees will be redirected from the activity in which the student does not want to participate. The Vice Chancellor for Student Life will decide where the funds will be redirected. The Task Force has one final meeting before the final report will be prepared. General Counsel has 19 questions for the Task Force to address. Students will be notified and the process will be explained, with additional FAQ provided. Student leaders think that 80% of students will 'opt in'. The cost for implementation of the new procedure must be determined, and will probably be significant. S. Harris asked whether students will be informed that they have more choice in where their fees are directed if they 'opt in'. D. Golden said that the language had to be kept short. The 'opt in' or 'opt out' option will not be linked to registration, but rather to the MyUTK Student Portal. Some units (e.g. Clarence Brown Theater) give discounts to students if they pay the fee for student activities. Students 'opting out' of activities may pay full door price. Links will also be provided to show past student programming. The joint TN Senate resolution called for the majority of those who serve on the committee that makes the funding decisions on student activities to be non-students. Currently the committee is almost 50:50 students to non-students. To accomplish the desired ratio, one faculty member was added to the committee.

#### Student Government Association (SGA) and Faculty Senate (D. Golden)

D. Golden has been in contact with the past president of SGA and others and is proposing that the SGA president, or their designee, be made a nonvoting ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate. The proposal was approved and will be included in the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

#### Reluctance of Faculty to Serve as Faculty Senate President (D. Golden)

Faculty contacted about serving in this position have expressed reluctance due to the time commitment involved. D. Golden indicated that potential candidates need to negotiate with their department head on their duties and responsibilities for the time period to be served in order to make time for this commitment. S. Martin suggested that she could look for funds to support a lecturer, etc., to buy time for that individual.

#### UT Branding Committee (D. Golden)

J. Cheek has appointed D. Golden to serve on a UT Branding Committee. A consultant firm has concluded that UTK does not have 'special branding', compared with other units (i.e. UT-Martin and UT-Chattanooga) in the UT system, and indicated that the UT symbol is used by the UT system. The only symbol that most people recognize is the Power T, used by (and copyrighted by) Athletics. However, many faculty think that use of the Power T will make the relationship between academics and athletics too close. The consultant company suggested that the Knoxville campus needs to differentiate itself from others in the system. L. Rinehart asked if the same conflict between academics and athletics exists at other universities. J. Koontz asked why we were exploring this in the first place. D. Golden responded that it is to give UTK specific recognition. D. Patterson suggested that the existing brand for UTK is the UT symbol, and we may diminish our brand if we change it. Many agreed with his statement. S. Harris said that she has noticed that other schools with multiple units use the same symbol, and differentiate their unit by adding the city name.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.