

Faculty Senate Executive Council  
MINUTES  
February 17, 2014

Present: Donna Braquet, Guoxun Chen, Jennifer Fowler, David Golden, Joanne Hall, Sally Harris, Don Hodges, John Koontz, Jon Levin, Susan Martin, Bharat Mehra, Bonnie Ownley, Stefanie Ohnesorg, David Patterson, Randall Pierce, Tina Shepardson, Steve Thomas

Guests: Jimmy Cheek

## **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)

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Pellissippi State Community College (PSCC) to revise the Bridge program. Students who are on the admissions wait list for UT will be allowed to attend PSCC and transfer to UT after 1 year.
- The Science Lab 1 Building, which was next on the capital improvements list, was not funded in the new budget. Additional funding strategies are under consideration.
- There is concern about the recommendation from Gov. Haslam that the funding schedule for the Hope Scholarship be changed from \$4,000 per year for four years, to \$3,000 per year for the first two years, and \$5,000 per year for the last two years. Students will need eight full semesters and if they exceed 120 hours course credit they will no longer be eligible for the Hope Scholarship.
- There is also concern about the Governor's proposal to provide full tuition for all high school graduates to attend community colleges. It is not known how this will affect UT and other four-year institutions. Information about the requirements for this program are not yet available.
- There have been discussions about 4-year universities offering two-year AA degrees, which would provide the universities with the opportunity to access the free tuition for a two-year degree from State funds.
- J. Cheek has been in Nashville working with legislators on the issue of allocation of student fees to student organizations for activities. Several possible proposals are being discussed.
- A bill has been proposed by state legislators that would freeze tuition for four years after a student has matriculated at the university. J. Cheek opposes this bill. He pointed out that he had already agreed that tuition would not increase more than 3% when the 15/4 policy was implemented at UT.

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

- We do not know how the Governor's proposal for free community college tuition will affect UT recruiting and we do not know when the policy will go into effect. The combination of a reduction of the Hope Scholarship for the first two years and free community college tuition may negatively affect UT's ability to recruit low income and minority students, particularly from distant areas.

- Admission decisions are being made earlier by UT. They would like to be able to package together all of the financial aid offered earlier, and be strategic about it. Many of the scholarship funds offered by individual colleges at UT are offered to freshmen.
- Questions followed. Regarding the free tuition plan for high school graduates to attend community colleges, D. Patterson commented that the new plan may dramatically affect campus diversity at UT. S. Martin agreed. Patterson expressed concern that students with AA degrees may not be prepared to take their last two years of coursework at UT. S. Martin agreed. There is also concern that these students may not be aware of the various programs that UT offers to help students with academic problems. Two colleges, Engineering and Nursing, have indicated that it will likely take four years at UT, following a two-year AA degree to complete bachelor's degrees in their programs.
- S. Martin commented on language in the Proposal on Romantic Relationships between Faculty and Students. She indicated that the juxtaposed sentences, "These relationships must not occur. When they do occur ..." create awkward language, and a better transition between the two sentences should be found. The proposal will go to the Board of Trustees for their consideration at their June meeting.

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

- D. Golden attended the UT Alumni Legislative Council/Advocacy meeting on February 8, 2014. He met with Harry Brooks, who chairs the House Education Committee.
- Carey Whitworth, from the Government Relations Office, will give a presentation about interactions with government at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting in March.

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

D. Golden asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of January 21, 2014. J. Koontz made a motion to approve the minutes as written. D. Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### Promotion Procedures for NTTF (D. Golden)

The new promotion procedures for non-tenure track faculty (NTTF) will be introduced at the Board of Trustees meeting next week. It is likely that it will be approved. T. Shepardson asked to obtain a copy of the document. D. Golden responded that the document is posted on the Provost website (<http://provost.utk.edu/lecturers>).

#### Academic Freedom Forums (J. Fowler)

The second forum on the Academic Freedom resolution has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 20, at 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the UC Crest Room. J. Fowler asked for help to get the message out to faculty. Fowler and P. Daves plan to meet with General Counsel soon to get a better idea of what will be approved. D. Patterson said that K. High (Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success) had indicated that there is language on the Chancellor's desk regarding an academic freedom proposal. The Faculty Affairs Committee was unaware of this document prior to the first forum.

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

There were no reports from special committees.

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

### Appeals Committee (B. MacLennan)

No report was available.

### Athletics Committee (J. Koontz)

No report was available. However, D. Golden mentioned that there is a Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), and that they wanted a representative from Faculty Senate and an outside entity. Their main issue is concussions. J. Koontz provided information for a survey for them. He mentioned that last year, the Athletics Committee invited Jason McVay to report on how they deal with concussions. Koontz said that they have a good plan.

### Benefits and Professional Development Committee (D. Braquet)

The Committee proposed changes in the Faculty Modified Duties (FMD) Assignment, which is posted on the Provost Office website (<http://provost.utk.edu/policies/family-care/>). The suggested changes are the following:

1. NTTF policy should be in alignment with tenure-track faculty (TTF) policies in order to treat all faculty equally.
2. The phrase 'family member' should be defined more specifically.
3. The modified duties assignment should be allowed to happen more than once in order for UT policies to be in line with top 25 peer institutions.

### Budget and Planning Committee (R. Pierce)

No report was available.

### Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

There was no additional information to report, see above.

### Graduate Council (D. Hodges)

No report was available.

### Library and Information Technology Committee (B. Mehra)

The library is undergoing an Academic Program Review. The review team includes both internal and external members. The Library and Information Technology Committee will be meeting with the review team on February 25, 2014. Please send any comments regarding the library to B. Mehra. The Dean of Libraries shared the review document that was submitted to the review team with the Committee.

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

J. Hall is waiting on the listserv to be updated because the new inclusion of NTTF changed the numbers of senators allowed per college. Faculty Senate elections will be set-up by the Office of Information Technology. Colleges are urged to find nominees and develop short bio sketches of the nominees.

### Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (S. Harris)

S. Harris distributed a handout for information only on a proposal that the Committee is developing on NTTF benefits. After discussion, it was suggested that proposals from the NTTI Committee and the Benefits and Professional Development Committee be combined and submitted as one proposal. B. Ownley asked for clarification on 9- vs 12-month appointments.

It was explained that 12-month appointments fall under Human Resources policy, while 9-month appointments do not, i.e. 9-month employees do not accumulate leave. The proposal on benefits for NTTF only applies to those with 9-month appointments.

Research Council (T. Shepardson)

No report was available. However, T. Shepardson asked for strategies to encourage attendance at Council meetings.

Teaching and Learning Council (L. Rinehart)

No report was available.

Undergraduate Council (J. Levin)

No report was available.

University System Relations Committee (G. Chen)

The Committee had planned to meet with K. High this week, but the meeting was cancelled due to weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for next week. J. Fowler, P. Daves, and D. Patterson will attend to discuss the resolution on academic freedom.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Senate Meeting Schedule – 2014/2015 (J. Hall)

Meeting schedule dates for next year have been proposed for Faculty Senate and Executive Council (EC) meetings. Discussion followed on the final EC meeting date (April 20 versus April 27). Consensus was that April 27<sup>th</sup> would be the best date. J. Koontz moved to accept the meeting dates, and J. Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Academic Outreach and Engagement Council (D. Patterson)

The Council proposed a recommendation for inclusion of “engaged scholarship” and “outreach engagement” as criteria for appointment to faculty rank. This is not intended to supplant other engagement, but to recognize outreach engagement by faculty. D. Patterson would like the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) to consider this proposal. J. Fowler responded that the FAC would review the document and suggest modifications. Fowler invited Patterson to attend the next FAC meeting and discuss the Council’s proposal.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.