

Faculty Senate Executive Council  
MINUTES  
March 24, 2014

Present: Donna Braquet, Guoxun Chen, Jennifer Fowler, David Golden, Joanne Hall, Sally Harris, John Koontz, Susan Martin, B. MacLennan, Bharat Mehra, Bonnie Ownley, David Patterson, Randal Pierce, Lloyd Rinehart, Tina Shepardson, Steve Thomas

Guests: Jimmy Cheek, Ruth Darling

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

D. Golden called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., after establishing that a quorum was present.

## **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

- Senate Joint Resolution 626, (<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/108/Bill/SJR0626.pdf>) sponsored by Bell, was passed. The process suggested is used by a few other universities. J. Cheek will consult with J. DiPietro and others, including faculty and students, about the resolution. The amount of funding involved is \$20 per semester per student. D. Patterson asked whether this resolution will affect our SACS accreditation. Cheek stated that he had consulted with UT Legal Counsel on this question and they indicated that they did not think it will affect SACS accreditation.
- Demolition of several buildings are underway to make room for new academic buildings and student housing. J. Koontz asked about completion of the Cherokee Farms complex, and J. Cheek replied that it should be finished next year.

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

- Planning is moving forward on Chancellor Cheek's initiatives that were announced during his meeting at the White House.
- Budget and planning meetings are currently underway. A report will be provided at a future meeting.
- J. Hall commented that "Mic Nite" was a success, and S. Martin agreed.

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

D. Golden indicated that much of his time and others had been spent on the controversy created by "Sex Week."

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

D. Golden asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of February 17, 2014. J. Koontz made a motion to approve the minutes as written. S. Thomas 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 is one case in progress before the committee.

Athletics Committee (J. Koontz)

No report was available from the committee, however, J. Koontz commended Coach C. Martin for his statement in an interview that players on the Men's Basketball team would leave Raleigh, NC at 12 a.m., after the game, and they would be attending their morning classes.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (D. Braquet) and the Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (S. Harris)

- Tuition Assistance Resolution (D. Braquet)  
D. Braquet presented a resolution to extend the tuition assistance benefit to the children of domestic partners. S. Harris asked that language be added to the resolution to indicate that the parents would need to show proof of partnership. T. Shepardson suggested that "RESOLVED" be replaced with "BE IT RESOLVED" (occurred in two places). She also suggested that the specific language about domestic partners be reviewed so that it is compatible with related benefits resolutions. Discussion followed on whether the tuition assistance benefit was a State of Tennessee or UT benefit. D. Golden offered to bring this question to a UT systems level meeting for clarification. D. Patterson suggested that the word "agrees," as in "Faculty Senate agrees that..." be strengthened to "urges" or "strongly encourages." T. Shepardson asked what the "Benefits Advisory Group" is. Braquet responded that it is a system-wide advisory group. Shepardson suggested that the Faculty Senate Benefits and Professional Development Committee meet with that group. D. Braquet agreed and indicated that she would like to include R. Hall, the Vice Chancellor for Diversity at that meeting. A motion to support the resolution with the modifications described above was proposed. The motion passed.
- Faculty and Family Leave Policy (D. Braquet, S. Harris)  
S. Harris presented a resolution calling for modifications in the Faculty and Family Leave Policy for faculty on 9-month appointments. The issues involve modifying service requirements and extending the tenure-track probationary status. The primary changes were: 1) inclusion of non-tenure-track faculty, 2) defining "family member" to include "child, parent, spouse, or domestic partner," 3) defining domestic partner, 4) and changing the number of times that faculty could have a modified duties assignment related to the arrival of a child (through birth, adoption, or foster care) from a maximum of two, to one modification for each child. S. Thomas asked for clarification in the language related to non-tenure and tenure-track faculty. S. Harris and D. Braquet will modify the resolution and D. Golden will distribute by email to Council members for a vote on the motion to approve the resolution. *Update: The revised resolution was distributed by email and approved with a vote of 12 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.*

Budget and Planning Committee (R. Pierce)

No report was available.

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

A meeting will be held with J. Zomchick about the Academic Freedom resolution.

Graduate Council (D. Hodges)

No report was available.

Library and Information Technology Committee (B. Mehra)

The Academic Review of the Library program has been completed. Committee members had a good meeting with the review team. The committee is working with OIT to address one of the concerns of the review team, namely minimal technology in classrooms.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (J. Hall)

J. Hall suggested that OIT be consulted early next year to set-up the election. The elections that went through OIT's process have gone very smoothly. The remaining caucuses should be finishing their elections this week. Regarding the President-elect position, she has spoken to five faculty who are considering it for next year, eight have said no and three are considering it for this year. All are concerned about the time commitment involved. J. Hall suggested that some duties of the President should be assigned to others to reduce the time commitment. She also stated that there is nothing in the bylaws that prevents past presidents from running for the office again. J. Koontz asked what kind of release time is available. J. Hall said that it must be negotiated with your dean. She was released from one course per semester and some committee responsibilities. D. Golden said that he was released from one course and his position as Director of Graduate Studies for his department. D. Patterson said that he was released from one course per semester and other service responsibilities. Discussion followed that the colleges/schools operate differently on this point and they may not be in compliance with their bylaws.

Research Council (T. Shepardson)

Council had a good meeting recently with most members attending. Several presentations were given. The research unit reviews have been organized and will be occurring this week.

Teaching and Learning Council (L. Rhinehart)

Council has finished evaluations for the Chancellor's Teaching and Advising Awards and submitted their recommendations.

Undergraduate Council (J. Levin)

No report was available.

University System Relations Committee (G. Chen)

The committee is meeting with K. High to discuss proposed changes to the Hope Scholarship and the resolution on academic freedom. They are also discussing policy that international students must pay out of state tuition and same sex domestic partner benefits.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Academic Advising: Assessment and Action Plans (Ruth Darling)

R. Darling gave a presentation on Academic Advising: 2013-2014 Initiatives. The initiatives were:

- VolVision journey to the top 25 (goal 1),

- Academic Advising falls under the teaching/learning mission of the university and the teaching role of faculty, which was approved by the Faculty Senate and the UT Board of Trustees,
- Academic Advising Needs Assessment (Spring 2013) and Student Advising Needs Assessment (Spring 2014),
- Academic Advising Audit was conducted by the UT Board of Trustees. Recommendations, responses, and action plans were developed. There is continued follow-up by Audit Services (UT Board of Trustees) on progress.
- Advisor Career Path (full-time advisors) for professional advisors was needed, and
- GradesFirst: IT infrastructure that supports advising/tutoring/academic support units (on-line scheduling, shared notes, communication, Early Alert, data and reporting) has been put in place.

The purpose of the Academic Advising Audit was to assess the effectiveness of undergraduate academic advising at the University of Tennessee. Methodology included interviews, gap analysis, and advisor needs assessment. The advisor needs assessment summary was conducted by J. Morrow and G. Skolits. The needs assessment summary was focused on advisory knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. The response rate to the survey was 46%, and included faculty and professional advisors.

Recommendations from the Advisory Needs Assessment were:

- A review of advisor training is needed to address lack of knowledge and knowledge discrepancies between faculty and professional advisors,
- Specific university and college policies regarding how advising activities are valued and counted should be distributed to faculty advisors and their department chairs,
- UT's advising policies and procedure information should be distributed more widely and more often to advisors,
- Evaluative data should be collected from students from each of the nine colleges,
- A review of the written policies and procedures from the nine colleges is needed, and
- A review of national best practices and undergraduate advising models is needed every 3-5 years.

Response to the UT Audit were:

- Each college should perform a strategic analysis to determine the most appropriate advising model, based on best practices and desired outcomes. A college advising syllabus should be developed. An Academic Advising System Summit was held in September, 2013 to learn best practices from national experts and work on the campus plan to develop college and departmental advising syllabi.
- Each college should develop a program of advising assessment that includes performance of advisors and program success in meeting desired outcomes.
- The university should develop a campus-wide academic advisor training program, and each college should develop training specific to their departments. This would include a career path for professional advisors and development of faculty advisors based on learning outcomes and partnership with TN TLC, based on faculty response to needs assessment.

The GradesFirst Student Support System supports faculty and professional advising. Advising notes on students are shared if the student moves from one college to another. Tutoring is

included. They are giving particular attention to the 10 courses that cause the most problems for students.

Commercial activity on campus green space (D. Golden)

D. Golden received an email on this issue but details are not available.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.