

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
February 3, 2014

Absent: Mary Albrecht, Ernest Brothers, Mary Lynn Brown, Theodore Brown, Jr., Gregory Button, Patricia Carter, Chris Cimino, Jim Conant, Ray Degennaro, Sebastien Dubreil, Gerd Duscher, Alberto Garcia, Denise Gardner, Lauren Gellar, Hansjoerg Goeritz, Iris Goodwin, Martin Griffin, John Haas, Tom Handler, David Harper, Sally Corran Harris, Tricia Hepner, Noriko Horiguchi, Wonjae Hwang, William Jennings, Ramki Kalyanaraman, Kurt Lamour, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Bob Legg, Jon Levin, Fangxing (Fran) Li, Joseph Majdalani, Angela McClure, Bharat Mehra, Gichingiri Ndigirigi, Agricola Odoi, Stephen Paddison, Yvonne Pelletier, Gene Peterson, Jessica Poore, Nathan Preuss, Andy Puckett, Eleanor Read, Avigail Sachs, Olya Smrkovski, Marlys Staudt, Curtis Stewart, Mark Windham, Kenton Yeager

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Quorum was established by D. Golden.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by D. Golden at 3:35 p.m.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

J. Cheek was unable to attend because he was in Nashville for the State of State address, to be given by Governor Haslam. The address will be broadcast at 7 pm tonight on PBS.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

- The Student Assessment of Instruction System (SAIS) Task Force Report has been completed. It was hoped that a universal, low cost instrument would be identified to replace the current system. There are other options, however, SAIS is free and customizable. The current system could be made more user friendly, less complex, and more easily administered. The Provost Office will work with the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment to examine the data. They will also consider other evaluation instruments recommended in the report.
- The Provost Office is working on the three initiatives aimed at helping low income students become more successful in college. The initiatives are: 1) Math Boot Camp in the summer for those who need help in math-intensive majors; 2) Improve the process for junior transfers and encourage transfers from junior colleges; and 3) Coaching for those who have difficulties adjusting to college life. A pilot program for the third initiative was successful. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is underdevelopment and S. Martin will report on it at a future Faculty Senate meeting.
- Questions – how big is math boot camp? Martin – will have to keep it manageable.

President's Report (D. Golden)

- The schedule for Sex Week has been announced. It will take place March 2-7. Additional information is posted on the Faculty Senate website (Sex Week Packet).
- Tennessee Senator Stacey Campfield has proposed a bill that states, "At public institutions of higher education, student fees allocated for student organizations to pay speakers to speak at organization functions shall be divided and distributed proportionally based on membership to student organizations requesting such funding." The bill is posted on the Faculty Senate website (Senate Bill 1608).

- Representatives from Faculty Senate must participate in Cumulative Performance Review (CPR) committees, therefore D. Golden has provided the names of two Faculty Senators to serve on two CPRs.

IV. MINUTES

J. Hall made a motion to accept the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of November 18, 2013. The motion was seconded by S. Hutson. 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 January 21, 2014, have been posted for review. These will be approved at the next Executive Council meeting (February 17, 2014).

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UT Coalition for Responsible Investment

J. Cheek wrote a letter to the Treasurer's Office asking them to consider the resolution. The Treasurer's Office has rejected the investment change suggested by the proposal. They indicated that their reason for rejection of the resolution was that funds are donated (not state appropriations) and donors may want the University to invest their donations in fossil fuel funds.

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Upcoming Senate Elections (J. Hall/D. Golden)

J. Hall has begun contacting Senate caucuses to determine the number of new Senators and length of term needed. She is also soliciting candidates for President-elect. D. Golden encouraged those contacted to seriously consider this position. He stated that he had learned a tremendous amount about the university during his tenure as President of the Faculty Senate.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (D. Braquet)

The committee examined the benefits leave policies of the top 25 public universities and the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) colleges and universities. The committee has drafted a resolution to modify universal sick and bereavement leave policies so that they are more in line with policies of our peer institutions and TBR schools. The proposal (Resolution on Universal Sick and Bereavement Leave Policies) and supporting documentation (Addendum for Resolution on Universal Sick and Bereavement Leave Policies) are posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Briefly, the proposed change in sick leave policy would allow the employee to take sick leave to care for additional family members, than are specified in the current policy. The proposed change in bereavement leave also lists additional family members and allows 5 days leave for funeral and bereavement. Questions followed. M. Cooper asked where 9-month faculty fit into this policy. D. Braquet indicated that they are not covered and the committee did not investigate it. S. Murphy asked whether this policy is being examined for non-tenure track faculty. M. Collins indicated that the Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee is currently looking at this issue, and said that there is a gap between UT policy and that of peer institutions. Braquet offered the Resolution for approval on behalf of the committee (serves as a motion) and D. Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

The committee will be holding two open forums on the proposed Academic Freedom policy, on Monday (February 10th) and Thursday (February 13th) at 3:30 p.m. in the Shiloh room, University Center. J. Fowler asked committee members to stand and be recognized so that Senators can contact them. J. Hall asked about the format of the forums. Fowler indicated that notes will be taken at the forums and suggestions and concerns expressed will be considered in a revised resolution, prepared by the committee. The revised resolution will go back to Executive Council for

review. M. Ziegler requested that an email could be sent to remind everyone of the forums and D. Golden indicated that would be done.

Graduate Council (D. Hodges)

Minutes of the Graduate Council meetings are posted on their website. Graduate Council approved two new programs. The dual JD-MA program will allow a certain number of credit hours of each program to count toward fulfillment of credit hours needed for the other program. The Credentials Committee approved 10 probationary faculty and 4 tenured faculty to direct PhD students.

The Curriculum Committee approved changes proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences. These were: 12 courses were: 3 courses were dropped, 25 courses were revised; a certificate in radiochemistry was added; the certificate in Medieval Studies was revised; and the concentration in Dramaturgy (Theatre major, MFA) was dropped. Changes proposed by the College of Social work were also approved. These were: 14 courses were added, 5 courses were dropped, and 7 courses were revised; and various program changes, including a revised introductory text, Advanced standing, and text and requirements for the PhD. The curriculum committee reviewed 68 courses that had not been offered in 4 or more years. They retained 6 of those courses based on appeals from five academic departments. There was a motion to approve the Graduate Council minutes of November 7th, 2013. The motion was seconded and passed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Senate GRA (D. Golden)

Liz Anne Bowden was introduced as the new Senate GRA.

Coursera (J. Gramling and I. Lane)

I. Lane (Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) introduced J. Gramling (new Director of Online Programs). Lane gave a presentation on online courses. Highlights included:

- Online education has increase significantly in the past 10 years. Students are mixing and matching online and residential courses, as well as blended and flipped classrooms.
- The concept evolved to teach online courses beyond the boundaries of campus for low or no cost to large numbers of students. Student results from free online courses at universities began the development of Coursera, Udacity, edX, Kahn Academy, and others, to deliver online courses as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Financial support came from private companies, foundations, and venture capitalists.
- Coursera has 6 million students worldwide signing up for courses, but more sustainable business models are needed. Most people who sign up for these courses already have a bachelor's degree and many do not finish the course.
- Coursera started partnering with 2- and 4-yr colleges and high schools. EdX reached out to private companies to provide training for their employees. Blackboard is also getting into this arena. Initiatives are underway to provide recognized credit for courses taken by students. Currently, certificates are offered if a series of courses are taken.
- UT met with EdX, but EdX did not want to form a partnership unless UT was going to partner across the state. Governor Haslam helped initiate the relationship between UT and Coursera. UT is a full partner with Coursera.
- There are new forms of delivery, such as DOCC (Distributed Open Collaborative Course). This involves multiple faculty interacting and teaching the same course at multiple universities. MOOCOW (Massive Open Online Course Or Whatever) involves mostly short delivery, short assessment, and short videos. Costs can vary significantly; typical costs are \$40,000 to \$60,000 per course. There are many ways these courses can be used, such as full course, remedial work, fill curriculum gaps, etc. There are many opportunities for content sharing.

- East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is offering a few online courses for free to students who have not been admitted. If they decide later to enroll at ETSU, they can receive course credit for the online courses they have taken for a few hundred dollars.
- The main problem with MOOCs is that thousands of people sign-up, and few finish the courses. At UT, development of pilot courses has encountered a few problems due to UT's current platform. Also, it is difficult to make arrangements with new companies based on academic policies. Other challenges include: administration decides which specific platform to use to deliver course materials, some companies (Coursera, Udacity, and Blackboard) are for profit, while others (EdX) are not. Governor Haslam provided a one-time investment last year for development of MOOCs. UT examined General Education courses to determine where this could be done. Seven pilot courses were started using MOOC platforms or courses. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission wants to know outcomes, in other words, are students completing the courses? There is an evaluation process in place. We will have more answers next year.
- Questions followed. T. Shepardson asked whether opening these courses meant not hiring faculty needed for teaching. I. Lane responded that faculty on campus own the curriculum and suggested that faculty will make the decision. Shepardson expressed that the concern is jobs, and not content because large numbers can be taught at once. Lane indicated that a main concern in Tennessee is reaching those students who we are not yet reaching. R. Blitt asked how well students do in these courses compared to traditional students. Lane gave examples of where online students did better and worse on compared to residential students. This issue is being examined.

Introduction of Suzanne Lodata, Director of Faculty Development Team (G. Reed)

G. Reed introduced Dr. Suzanne Lodata as a new faculty member and the Director of Faculty Development Team. S. Lodata indicated that her Team is helping faculty obtain prestigious fellowships and awards, assisting with communities of scholars by facilitating the formation of groups and workshops, and advising new faculty, faculty with limited experience, and faculty who want to take their work in a different direction with external grant applications.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie H. Ownley,
Secretary