

FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes  
May 5, 2014

Absent: Joe Bailey, Rob Blitt, Jason Brown, Theodore Brown, Jr., Gregory Button, Vincent Carilli, Patricia Carter, Chris Cimino, Jim Conant, Ray Degennaro, Ian Down, Alberto Garcia, Lauren Gellar, John Haas, Tom Handler, Tricia Hepner, Noriko Horiguchi, Wonjae Hwang, Mike Jones, Dean Kopsell, Kurt Lamour, Bob Legg, Jon Levin, Fangxing (Fran) Li, Joseph Majdalani, Crystal McAlvin, Angela McClure, Larry Miller, Agricola Odoi, Stephen Paddison, Yvonne Pelletier, Jessica Poore, Tulio Prado, Nathan Preuss, Eleanor Read\*, Jennifer Richards, Joe Scogin, Steve Smith, Marlys Staudt, Curtis Stewart, Christian Vossler\*, Micheline Westfall, Mark Windham, Philip Ye, Songning Zhang, Mary Ziegler

\*Alternates: Leigh Mutchler for Christian Vossler, JoAnne Deeken for Eleanor Read

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

Quorum was established by D. Golden.

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

The meeting was called to order by D. Golden at 3:31 p.m.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

J. Cheek was unable to attend.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

- The confirmation site for student acceptance was closed on May 1. The numbers are very good for first time freshman, diversity, and student quality. S. Martin looks forward to a large, robust undergraduate class.
- S. Martin met with the Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee last week and discussed the budget for Academic Affairs. She stated that they had received requests totaling \$14M-15M and are carefully considering needs. Martin also discussed with the committee how allocations from Academic Affairs have been distributed over the last few years. Faculty instruction has been a large component of their budget. S. Martin also discussed a plan with R. Pierce (Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee) for her to periodically provide reports on the Academic Affairs budget to Faculty Senate.

President's Report (D. Golden)

- The Faculty Affairs Committee has been tasked to develop a new non-tenure-track extension faculty title for inclusion in the UT *Faculty Handbook*. J. Fowler has begun working with Tim Cross (Dean of UT Extension) on this issue.
- UT General Counsel was pleased with the report from the Resolution Implementation Task Force. J. DiPietro will review the report and forward to the UT Board of Trustees. D. Golden reminded everyone that the joint senate resolution required students to 'opt in', making it clear to students that the fee (about \$20) will not be waived if they do not 'opt in'. If they do not opt in, the fee will be used for other programming. The 'opt in' option will be implemented through the MyUTK Student Portal. Students who choose not to 'opt in' may have to pay the full price for other events on campus. There are a few

issues to work out for groups of students who do not register themselves, such as those in the Law College and the College of Veterinary Medicine, or students on the UT Space Institute campus, who do not come to the UTK campus.

- D. Golden explained the purpose of the Committee on University Identity (Branding). Other units of the UT System, i.e. UT-Martin and UT-Chattanooga, have developed unique brands to represent their campus. The UT Knoxville campus does not have a unique brand, but uses the brand used by the UT system. Golden mentioned that focus groups have been created to participate in branding for UTK.
- R. Spirko asked about the composition of the committee that approves use of student activity fees. D. Golden said that the joint senate resolution calls for a majority of the members to be non-students. Additional members have been added resulting in a non-student majority. D. Fox asked about an 'opt out' option. Golden responded that students are required to make a choice, 'opt in' or 'not opt in'.
- D. Fox stated that she had participated in a branding focus group and felt that participants were being pushed toward a specific answer.

#### **IV. MINUTES**

D. Golden called for a vote to accept the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of April 7, 2014. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved as written. The unapproved minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting of April 23, 2014, have been posted for review. These will be approved at the next Executive Council meeting (September 2, 2014).

#### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Resolution on Faculty Academic Freedom and Shared Governance (J. Fowler)

J. Fowler stated that many universities are incorporating their academic freedom statements into shared governance documents. The Faculty Affairs Committee, with input from several individuals and groups, developed the proposed resolution. An additional paragraph has been added to the resolution that will be incorporated into section 1.5 (Shared Governance, second paragraph, additions underlined) of the UT *Faculty Handbook*. They wanted to make it clear that this paragraph related to faculty speech as an employee. Minor changes were made to section 2.13 (Freedom as a Citizen, additions underlined and deletions with strikeout). Fowler moved that the resolution be approved. There was no discussion and the motion was approved. The approved resolution is posted at the UT Faculty Senate website.

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

Graduate Council (D. Hodges)

The Credentials Committee approved 11 faculty members to direct doctoral students. The Curriculum Committee has not met since the previous Faculty Senate meeting. D. Hodges moved that the Graduate Council minutes of Feb. 27, 2014, be approved, and the motion passed. Hodges announced that Pat Freeland will be chair and Steve Kania will be vice chair of Graduate Council for next year. Minutes of the Graduate Council meetings are posted on the Graduate Council website (<http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/gcouncil.shtml>).

Non-tenure-track Issues Committee – Family Leave Policy, approved April 7, updated language, for information only (S. Harris)

The amended resolution, as approved at the April 7, 2014, Faculty Senate meeting, is posted on the Faculty Senate website.

#### Research Council – Bylaws Revision (T. Shepardson)

T. Shepardson stated that M. Griffin chaired the committee, which updated the Faculty Senate bylaws pertaining to the Research Council. The main updates included name changes of units within the university, title changes of personnel, verbiage that stated lecturers and instructors were potential members of the Research Council, clarification on the role of the Research Council in periodic reviews of University research centers and units, and addition of the immediate past chair of the Research Council as an ex-officio member. Shepardson moved that the bylaws revision proposed by the Research Council be approved, and the motion passed. The revised bylaws document is posted on the Faculty Senate website.

#### Undergraduate Council Approvals (D. Golden for J. Levin)

Several minutes of meetings held by the Undergraduate Council were presented for approval. The dates of those meetings were: September 10, 2013, October 22, 2013, November 12, 2013, January 28, 2014, and April 8, 2014. D. Golden moved that all minutes of the Undergraduate Council be approved. The motion passed. Minutes of the Undergraduate Council meetings are posted at the Undergraduate Council website (<http://web.utk.edu/~ugcouncil/>).

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

#### Student Body President & Faculty Senate (D. Golden)

D. Golden introduced Kelsey Keny as the incoming president of the Student Government Association (SGA). Golden made a motion to include the SGA president as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Faculty Senate. He indicated that his proposal had been approved by the Executive Council, and that the proposal would require a modification in the Faculty Senate bylaws. Golden proposed the following revision to the bylaws:

- “D. Student Body President. The Student Government Association (SGA) shall be represented on the Faculty Senate by the Student Body President. The Student Body President shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Senate. In the event that the Student Body President cannot attend a regular senate meeting, she/he will appoint a student designee from the SGA. The Student Body President shall be permitted to provide a report to the Faculty Senate at the request of the Faculty Senate President.”

D. Golden called for discussion. K. Keny stated that inclusion of the SGA president as a member of the Faculty Senate would help close gaps in communication. The motion passed.

#### Candidate Statements for President-elect and UFC Faculty Representative (J. Hall)

- Faculty Senate elections have been completed, and there are only two empty seats. A list of senators has been sent to caucus chairs.
- There are two candidates for President-elect of Faculty Senate: JoAnn Deeken and Bruce MacLennan. Both candidates gave brief statements. Their written statements are posted on the Faculty Senate website.
- There are two candidates for UT Faculty Council: Steve Thomas and Candace White. Both candidates made brief statements, and their written statements are posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Senate Secretary Recommendation from Executive Council and other (J. Hall)

- J. Hall indicated that Executive Council has recommended that B. Ownley continue as Secretary. Hall made a motion to approve the recommendation and the motion passed. Hall announced that J. Poore will continue as Parliamentarian.
- J. Hall stated that a Senator was needed to serve on the Emergency Management Steering Committee. S. Hutson nominated Polly McArthur (College of Nursing).

Senate Information Officer Recommendation, incomplete (J. Hall).

J. Hall and D. Golden recommend that this position should be revised to Communications Officer. The duties will be to improve communications between the Faculty Senate and other faculty. A recent survey revealed that faculty think that the Faculty Senate is important, but they do not know what the Senate is doing. A recommendation has not been made for this position yet.

Additional election information (J. Hall)

- Elections for President-elect and UFC Faculty Representative will be conducted electronically, within the next week.
- J. Hall requested that caucus chairs send the final list of elected and continuing Senators to her.
- She also requested that Senators send their preferences for committee assignments to her by May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Faculty Senate retreat has been scheduled for August 29, 2014, and meeting dates for the Faculty Senate and Executive Council have been posted for 2014-2015.
- D. Golden encouraged Senators to run for President-elect in the future. He indicated that it had been a very rewarding experience for him.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by D. Golden at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie H. Ownley,  
Secretary