

FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes  
November 18, 2013

Absent: Stan Bowie, Donna Braquet, Gregory Button, Patricia Carter, Courtney Childers, Chris Cimino, Jim Conant, Matthew Cooper, Wanda Costen, Mary Derrington, Gerd Duscher, Michael Fry, Alberto Garcia, Hansjoerg Goeritz, John Haas, Tom Handler, Tricia Hepner, Donald Hodges, Wonjae Hwang, Ramki Kalyanaraman, Dean Kopsell, Kurt Lamour, Bob Legg, Jon Levin, Fangxing Li, Joseph Majdalani, Angela McClure, Stephen Paddison, Yvonne Pelletier, Jessica Poore, Tulio Prado, Nathan Preuss, Susan Ratliff, Eleanor Read, Jennifer Richards, John Schwartz, Steve Smith, Olya Smrkovski, Marlys Staudt, Curtis Stewart, Ahmad Vakili, Christian Vossler, Kathi Wong, Philip Ye, Kenton Yeager, Mary Ziegler

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

Quorum was established by J. Poore.

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

The meeting was called to order by D. Golden at 3:32 p.m.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

- The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has recommended an additional \$10M for UTK beyond the outcome-based formula fund.
- A top priority in efforts to increase available classroom and laboratory space include a new science lab facility adjacent to the Jessie Harris Building.
- J. Cheek and several other UT officials recently visited China to explore opportunities for undergraduate and graduate-level Chinese students to attend UT. Study abroad for UT undergraduate students was discussed also. This semester 33 Chinese students are attending UT. Administration is working to develop 2+2 (2 years of undergraduate study in China and 2 years in the U.S.), and 3+2 (3 years in China + 2 years at UT culminating in an M.S. degree) programs. The UT Institute of Agriculture has crafted a "100 Ph.D." program through agreements with Chinese Universities. The Chinese have also expressed interest in undergraduate programs in humanities, social sciences and behavioral sciences.
- The relationship between the Y-12 National Security complex and UT is strengthening.
- UT Development has been successful in raising funds to meet the Chancellor's challenge for more professorships and Chairs. They have raised \$16M, which has helped to create 50 professorships and Chairs in only 2 years. These new positions will be transformational for UT. In the 2012 public/private list of fund-raising universities, UT ranks 36. J. Bailey asked, "How do departments obtain Chairs?" J. Cheek replied that they should find a donor who wants to commit money to their college or school. Cheek stated that he meets with donors frequently to raise discretionary funds to place in any college/unit.

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

S. Martin was unable to attend due to travel.

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

- A Nominating Committee was appointed by D. Golden to select candidates for receipt of an honorary degree. G. McCracken chaired the Committee. Dr. E.O. Wilson, who attended UTK as a graduate student, before transferring to Harvard, was the committee's nominee. J. Cheek presented the nominee to the UT Board of Trustees, which approved the nomination. E.O. Wilson will be awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters at spring commencement.

- The Pat Summit Plaza will be dedicated on November 22, 2013.
- At the last Faculty Senate meeting (October 21, 2013), the Faculty Affairs Committee agreed to review issues involving Band Director G. Sousa. However, after discussion the committee decided that there is nothing at this point that they can consider. After the review by UTK is completed, if it appears that there is a role for the Faculty Affairs Committee, their involvement will be reconsidered. Senators were requested to direct any questions on this matter to D. Golden or J. Fowler.

#### **IV. MINUTES**

J. Koontz made a motion to accept the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 21, 2013. The motion was seconded by S. Murphy. 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 November 4, 2013, have been posted for review. These will be approved at the next Executive Council meeting (January 21, 2014).

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

There was no unfinished business.

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

Graduate Council (P. Freeland)

Fourteen faculty were approved to direct Ph.D. students. The Graduate Council approved two program changes (Five-Year BA-MA Program – Philosophy Major; Dual JD-MA Program – Philosophy) and two curriculum proposals (College of Arts and Sciences; College of Social Work). There was a motion to approve the Graduate Council meeting minutes, which was seconded and the motion passed. The Graduate Council meeting minutes are posted on the Graduate Council website.

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

UT Coalition for Responsible Investment (D. Lawhon)

D. Lawhon called for a moment of silence for typhoon victims in the Philippines. He introduced the resolution from the UT Coalition for Responsible Investment by stating that UT was committed to become 100% carbon neutral by 2061, and that UTK is a signatory to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. At UT, we have been reducing waste and participating in recycling. He reasoned that it was problematic to own investments in fossil fuel companies, given our other commitments. As an example of divestment movements that helped bring about change, he described efforts in the 1970's that occurred at universities, to divest from South Africa due to their apartheid policy. Lawhon said that he had met with UT's investment officers, and that UT has a policy on socially responsible investment. He indicated that he believes that his proposed resolution fits this model. The resolution includes freezing fossil fuel investments over 5 years, and creating a Subcommittee on Responsible Investments to monitor and advise existing committees, which are focused on investment policy, of the UT Board of Trustees and the UT Treasurer's Office, on the social and environmental aspects of investments. Lawhon stated that there is strong student support (>80%) for the resolution. He asked the Faculty Senate to join in support of the resolution.

A. Puckett (area of expertise = institutional investments) stated that he agreed with Lawhon on environmental responsibilities; however, he disagreed with passages that suggested that the investment change will come with offsetting costs. To restrict our investments, and state that we would be better off financially, is not supported by past experiences. Divestment will come at a financial expense to the portfolio. D. Lawhon indicated that he had read studies that were positive, neutral, and negative on this aspect. R. DeGennaro added that although evidence can be found to support both sides of this argument, divestment from fossil fuels will most likely have a negative

financial impact. Lawhon responded that our fossil fuel investments are a minor component of the portfolio.

F. Schwartz asked why fossil fuels were chosen as the primary target. What about CFCs and mercury; it becomes very political. D. Lawhon acknowledged that these could also be problems, which is why the resolution suggests an oversight committee to interact with the Board of Trustees and UT officials. The coalition chose the fossil fuels industry as a place to start.

M. Griffin asked for clarification on fossil fuels; was he referring to oil, coal, or natural gas? D. Lawhon said that they had a list of the top 200 companies to divest. Griffin asked that given that we need energy, did Lawhon have an alternative configuration for investment that made sense. Lawhon responded that he did not want to tie down administration with specific investments, but he suggests socially responsible investing. He suggested that the proposed Subcommittee on Responsible Investments could assign weight to the environmental practices of potential investments as part of their evaluation. He repeated that he wanted the divestment to occur time (5 years).

J. Hall asked about the practices of our peer institutions. D. Lawhon indicated that eight universities and some large cities have divested fossil fuels from their portfolios. He indicated that this is largely symbolic and intended to send a message. T. Shepardson thanked Lawhon for the presentation. F. Schwartz stated that this could be made into an opportunity for donors to match funds. Lawhon said that they are considering it, and thinking about appealing to alumni to have a separate investment fund without fossil fuel industries to attract those who want to invest in alternatives. J. Brown commented that Bill McKibbin, author of *Eaarth*, was impressed when he visited campus earlier this semester and learned that students had passed this resolution.

D. Lawhon was asked about a timeline and he replied that it would take several months. He indicated that he wanted to build a broad coalition of support among students, and that faculty support is also important for this initiative. S. Hutson asked whether it would be useful for him to meet with finance professors to craft sections of the document to be more representative of current studies on divestment. Lawhon stated that he welcomed an opportunity to discuss this issue with finance faculty. D. Golden charged the Budget and Planning Committee to review the resolution. He also asked Senators to contact Lawhon for more discussions if interested. T. Shepardson asked if we could expect a report from the Budget and Planning Committee, and R. Pierce (chair) indicated that their committee will meet next week and will review the resolution.

#### Family Medical Leave Policy (D. Golden)

Paid leave or sick leave is not approved for 9-month faculty members. However, the Provost Office can approve a modified duty assignment. Current policy limits "modified duty assignments" to two incidents, which has become an issue. D. Golden will discuss this issue with other faculty senate presidents in the UT system. S. Hutson queried how was the limit of two incidents decided? Golden replied that he did not know. He added that the Family Medical Leave Act (leave without pay) is also available to faculty. S. Noble commented that if you had more than two kids, you would need to take leave without pay. S. Harris added that in those circumstances, the Provost Office recommends that the unit work out an accommodation, but accommodation is not a requirement. S. Murphy pointed out that there are different policies for non-tenure versus tenured and tenure-track faculty. J. Zomchick responded that the benefits are limited to tenured and tenure-track faculty. Golden suggested that the Benefits and Professional Development Committee may want to review this issue. J. Hall requested that the Provost speak on this issue at the next Faculty Senate meeting. She also asked about the role of the Provost Office if the unit works out a modified assignment with the faculty member. Golden suggested that the Non-tenure Track Issues Committee should examine this

concern too. F. Schwartz asked what do our peer institutions do under these circumstances, and Golden replied that he did not know.

Danielle South, Graduate Assistant

D. Golden expressed much appreciation to Danielle South for her assistance with Faculty Senate matters. Danielle will graduate in December with MBA and JD degrees. She will become the Director of Public Policy and Education with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie H. Ownley,  
Secretary