

Faculty Senate Executive Council
MINUTES
October 6, 2014

Present: Joe Bailey, Deborah Baldwin, Micah Beck, Mark Collins, Jennifer Fowler, Patricia Freeland, David Golden, Joanne Hall, Dean Kopsell, Bruce MacLennan, Susan Martin, Bonnie Ownley, Rebecca Prosser, Jennifer Richards, Tina Shepardson, Robert Spirko, Steven Waller, Candace White, Kathi Wong

Guest: Margie Nichols (Vice Chancellor for Communications)

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Hall called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and established that a quorum was present.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

President's Report (J. Hall)

- Steven Waller (College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences) and Deborah Baldwin (College of Arts and Sciences) were introduced as at-large members of the Faculty Senate Executive Council.
- J. Hall received an email about an uncivil exchange (student chanting) at the end of the Florida football game. Margie Nichols responded that an email had been sent out to students about the disrespectful chant and expectations were made clear that it not happen again.
- Jenny Richter (Office of Equality and Diversity) will attend the next Faculty Senate meeting to talk about the new policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence.
- Matthew Theriot will speak at the Nov. 17th meeting of the Faculty Senate on the Quality Enhancement Plan.
- J. Hall indicated that a Chair was needed for the University System Committee.
- Members raised questions about the status of resolutions on family leave and bereavement policies that were approved during the spring session (2014) of the Faculty Senate. Members were told that there would be an update coming soon.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

- The Chancellor was unable to attend.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

- The College of Business has been named the Haslam College of Business in honor of Jim Haslam.
- A Smart Communities Initiative (focus on service learning) with Cleveland, TN has been established.
- The UT Board of Trustees (BOT) approved granting admission to any student from a 2-year school with 60 hours course credit (45 hours must be from a school in Tennessee), and an Associate degree with a 3.0 GPA. This decision will affect a small number of students.
- Work is ongoing to develop branding for the Knoxville campus that is distinct from the UT System branding.
- Candidates for the Dean of the Law School are being interviewed.

- Matthew Theriot and his committee have completed the Quality Enhancement Plan for the Provost Office.
- A question was asked about whether the Tennessee Promise program would only apply to students coming directly out of high school; the answer is yes. An assessment by Bill Fox's group has predicted that the impact on enrollment at 4-year universities will be small and there will be very little impact on UT enrollment.

Branding of UTK Visual Identity Quality Research (Margie Nichols)

Advisory groups that included faculty, administrators, staff, and students were involved in exploring branding for the UTK campus. Most identified with the 'Power T' as a symbol of UTK. Participants were shown several branding marks from UT and other peer institutions. Results were the following: the 'Wingnut' is considered a symbol of the UT system, rather than UTK; the 'Power T' is associated with athletics and academics, and Admissions is currently using this symbol. There was a positive perception of the 'Power T'. They are exploring switching the colors of the 'Power T' symbol, i.e. white T in an orange box. It will take 1-2 years before there is compliance with use, meanwhile they will work on a rollout plan. There was a suggestion that the UT system make more effort to set themselves apart from UTK, for example use the word 'System' as part of their branding.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting of September 2, 2014, were presented for approval. C. White made a motion to approve the minutes as written. M. Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recommended Bylaws Changes Proposed by Research Council (T. Shepardson)

J. Hall asked whether the version of the proposed bylaws changes currently posted on the Faculty Senate website is the final version. T. Shepardson replied that it was, and indicated that the proposed changes will be brought before the Senate at the next meeting.

University Faculty Council Update (C. White)

Appropriations for UT from the State of Tennessee have been declining over the past few years (53% in 2001 to 39% in 2014). We are facing a large funding gap over the next 10 years. President DiPietro has stated that our business model is unsustainable. He is proposing to create a baseline of data, Strategic Academic Portfolio Analysis, to examine return on investment, market demand, and student outcomes. This analysis will include an independent look at programs and courses, demand, mission, strengths, key initiatives, cost of delivery, and centrality to the university. Essentially, will growing the program advance the mission of the university? We cannot continue to raise tuition to cover the budget deficit. One of the problems we face is promotion of higher education in the State of Tennessee.

There is concern that superpacs are running the state legislature. We need to have a more aggressive approach in how we handle university relations. For example, the 5,000 letters about Sex Week made a difference. There was also discussion about administrative impasses with policy documents (Faculty Handbook in Memphis is an example). C. White said that President DiPietro indicated that he distained administrators who placated shared governance. There was discussion on the new Sexual Misconduct Policy and concern that there is too little in place to protect against false reports; there is no due process at the campus level.

C. White also learned that UTK was the only university that had bylaws for Faculty Senate committees. She questioned whether these were needed, especially since there are some committees whose bylaws are not compatible with the Senate bylaws. She suggested that committees need operating procedures but not bylaws.

Communications Update (R. Spirko)

R. Spirko is working on increasing the visibility of the Faculty Senate with various other groups.

V. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

There were no reports from special committees.

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Athletics Committee (D. Kopsell)

The committee will have a speaker on compliance.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (M. Beck)

The committee is exploring the availability of professional development for non-tenure track faculty. They are also looking at benefits equality questions to determine their next step. M. Beck suggested that the Faculty Senate make a suggestion that search committees tell candidates about the lack of benefits equality at UTK. T. Shepardson suggested that data be collected on why people decline to take a job, rather than put them on the spot about partner benefits. M. Collins stressed that it should be done in a way that it does not emphasize a negative. B. Ownley added that there should be a standard way to explain to all candidates about benefits offered. Beck also added that the resolution on family leave and bereavement benefits passed by the Senate last spring applied to domestic partners, rather than same sex couples only.

Budget and Planning Committee (J. Bailey)

No report was available.

Graduate Council (P. Freeland)

Council is working on making the Graduate Catalog more 'user friendly'.

Library and Information Technology Committee (K. Wong)

The committee is working on making technology available in every classroom.

Research Council (T. Shepardson)

Mitch Goldman will be speaking to the council on developing research relations between the research hospital and UTK. The council also plans to have speakers on changes with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and how faculty time is spent on development of proposals. Concern was expressed by members on new requirements for IRB approval to work with social media data.

Teaching Council (J. Richards)

In regards to SAIS evaluations, council has been asked by J. Zomchick to consider making the average value for a given department publically available. C. White stated that a higher response rate is needed; with a low response rate we are looking at outliers. J. Richards said

that the Teaching Council would recommend that access be available to administrators and faculty with login ID and password. A guideline should also be developed on how to interpret this information. There is concern that SAIS scores do not have validity. Council will also recommend that scores include standard deviation. J. Hall suggested that J. Richards prepare a report to present to the Faculty Senate.

University Systems Relation Committee (C. White)

The committee has not met yet.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Board of Trustees (D. Golden)

The BOT gave unanimous approval of President DiPietro's contract renewal. Tenure was granted to six new faculty.

Interim Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence: Faculty Initiatives (J. Hall)

J. Hall reported on the Task Force that is working to develop the final policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence. She asked members to examine the interim policy, especially the faculty initiatives. The policy is posted at <http://sexualassault.utk.edu/>. Faculty must report on student complaints and on complaints from staff if you supervise the staff member. The question was raised about whether this was 'over-reporting'. The interpretation is that we have not caught up with under-reporting. J. Hall showed posters that have been developed on the new campaign. She explained that the policy is based on new federal guidelines and existing federal laws (Title IX, Violence against Women Act). B. MacLennan asked if the Task Force is working with other universities to develop a best practices document. J. Hall responded that they are borrowing language from other universities and many are working on this. There are 80+ universities currently under federal investigation for how they have handled these issues in the past.

Accessibility Summit (J. Hall)

The university is not going to purchase any more platforms that are not accessible. There will be new guidelines, e.g., do not post PDF documents in Blackboard because everyone does not have access to PDF files. The Office of Disability Services will continue to operate and address the specific needs of individuals.

Other

C. White suggested that the Senate website should have a link to UT Advocacy.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

J. Hall asked if members had requests for speakers at Executive Council meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.