

Faculty Senate Executive Council  
MINUTES  
September 2, 2014

Present: Micah Beck, Mark Collins, Jennifer Fowler, Patricia Freeland, David Golden, Joanne Hall, Dean Kopsell, Bruce MacLennan, Bonnie Ownley, Michael Palenchar, Jessica Poore, Rebecca Prosser, Jennifer Richards, Tina Shepardson, Robert Spirko, Candace White, and Kathi Wong

Guest: Jimmy Cheek

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

J. Hall called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and J. Poore established that a quorum was present.

## **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

### President's Report (J. Hall)

- Bill Fox (Director, Center for Business and Economic Research) will be invited to an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting to give the presentation, "The State Economic and Financial Outlook," which he gave at the recent Academic Leadership Retreat.
- J. Hall requested that the Faculty Senate Committees examine the Faculty Senate Bylaws related to them and determine whether revisions are needed in regards to the number of members, number of non-tenure-track members, etc.
- J. Hall indicated that the Faculty Senate should provide representatives to the Commission for Blacks, Commission for LGBT People, and Commission for Women.
- More members are needed for the Systems Relations Committee.
- J. Hall discussed the new interim policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence and urged members to read it. This is an important policy. These issues are national problems.

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

- The Chancellor is working with President DiPietro on a new funding scenario for UT, which will be discussed with legislators soon. There is more student demand to attend UTK, and the credentials of the freshman class have improved, e.g. 43% have >4.0 GPA. From the state budget perspective, 31% of the budget is spent on the state's Medicaid managed care program (TennCare). How do we fund higher education too? J. Cheek encouraged members to hear Bill Fox's presentation of where we are and where we are headed economically. Cheek reminded members that some states (FL) have large tourism taxes generated or higher real estate taxes, but Tennessee is dependent primarily on sales tax.
- J. Cheek encouraged more interaction with Charles Wharton, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a great supporter of UT.
- Chancellor Cheek indicated that he has planned a lunch with Executive Council members in the fall and spring semesters, and a dinner in spring.

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

- The Provost was unable to attend.

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Items for Approval by Unanimous Consent (J. Hall).

1. Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of April 23, 2014 (<http://senate-utk-edu.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/2013/08/Exec.-Minutes-April-2014.pdf>).
2. Approve representative appointments to the Emergency Management Committee (Polly McArthur), Technology Advisory Board (Tese Stephens), Council for Diversity and Interculturalism (Brian Ambroziak), and Tennessee University Faculty Senates (Martin Griffin).
3. Approval of Undergraduate Curriculum Council Minutes of April 8, 2014.
4. Resolution for a bylaws change regarding attendance of the Student Government Association (SGA) president at Senate meetings.

D. Golden made a motion for consent of these items, and Jennifer Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Changes to Faculty Senate By-laws for Information/Communications Officer, and Update on Communication (C. White, R. Spirko).

R. Spirko presented specific changes in 'Article IV. Section 5. Information Officer' of the Bylaws. The primary changes were: change of the title from Information Officer to Communications Officer, and elimination of three duties: manage disseminating information, maintaining Faculty Senate archives, and serving as editor for the Faculty Senate Newsletter. J. Hall identified additional minor clerical changes that were needed in the "As it would read" explanation section of the draft proposal and offered the changes as a friendly amendment. R. Spirko explained that the plan is to develop short bullet items on important Faculty Senate issues that can be distributed to all faculty interested in receiving this information. C. White pointed out that "Faculty Senate Newsletter" is removed from the Bylaws so that specific forms of communication are not emphasized in order to take advantage of new and developing communication forms.

Teaching and Learning Council (TLC) Issue with Changing Calendar for Chancellor's Awards (J. Richards)

J. Richards stated that a change is needed in the calendar for the Chancellor's Awards that are determined by the Teaching and Learning Council. If someone teaches only in the spring semester, they are not in the timeline for selection for this award because they miss the observation period that occurs in the fall semester. An option for submission of a videotaped lecture was discussed. D. Golden asked whether the TLC could evaluate teaching criteria in both fall and spring semesters. One option would be to allow nominees to defer nomination for two (2) years so that there will be time to evaluate everyone. C. White asked whether this was a significant problem for the Council. J. Richards replied that it was not a big problem yet, but it could be in the future because large numbers of nominations are being received. Richards indicated that only a small number of faculty are impacted at this point. M. Palenchar asked whether it would be fair to assess nominations received in a given year against nominations for the following year. J. Richards stated that they receive nominations for highly qualified faculty and there is not much variability from year to year in teaching quality.

## **V. Reports of Special Committees**

There were no reports from special committees.

## **VI. Reports of Standing Committees**

Appeals Committee (R. Prosser)

No report was available.

Athletics Committee (D. Kopsell)

No report was available, but D. Kopsell has sent out an agenda to members.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (M. Beck)

M. Beck asked whether there should be two committees, one for Benefits and one for Professional Development. D. Golden and C. White indicated that the two committees were merged in 2009. The Committee has had a discussion on partner benefits, with a focus on what remains to be done. They are also examining the issue of whether non-tenure-track faculty (NTT) are being given appropriate opportunities for professional development. They will also be looking at how the new retirement benefits policies are affecting new employees.

Budget and Planning Committee (J. Bailey)

J. Bailey indicated that recent activities of the Committee have not adhered to the Faculty Handbook. According to the Handbook, the Committee is supposed to have input into the budget and planning process. Members feel that one-way communication has developed and that they are being told about budget and planning decisions after they have occurred.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (B. MacLennan)

No report was available.

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

One more member is needed to meet the nine members prescribed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The Committee goals include: 1) revise the by-law related to communications officer; 2) revote on SGA ex-officio membership to give ample time (28 days) for review of the first reading; 3) examine David Patterson's proposal to include outreach and engagement activities for tenure and promotion; 4) explore addition of NTT faculty titles for those with primary Extension responsibilities and appropriate faculty credentials. They will discuss this item with Tim Cross, Dean of UT Extension; and 5) review the new policy on sexual misconduct and relationship violence.

Graduate Council (P. Freeland)

No report was available.

Library and Information Technology Committee (K. Wong)

K. Wong was unable to attend the meeting but R. Spirko summarized it. He indicated that the Committee wanted to make certain that any instructor could walk into a classroom and technology will be available to them. He also mentioned that the university is rolling out an agreement with Google so that UT personnel will have access to their Google apps. Questions about privacy and sharing of Google documents were raised and discussed.

#### Non-Tenure-Track Issues Committee (M. Collins)

Members include NTT research, NTT clinical, and NTT teaching faculty. The Committee is looking at professional development opportunities for NTT compared with those available for tenure-track faculty.

#### Research Council (T. Shepardson)

T. Shepardson indicated that unfinished business from last year included bylaws changes related to the Council. They are also going to meet with new persons in the Office of Research and Engagement. They will also have discussions on data collection within UT and Industry funded research.

#### Teaching and Learning Council (J. Richards)

The Council will be making changes in language regarding awards for professional advisors. They will also be discussing changes in the SAIS program based on what the Provost's Office would like to see.

#### Undergraduate Council (M. Palenchar)

The Council will be meeting next week, and working on new initiatives. Molly Sullivan is the new contact for curriculum issues. Council members have been moved around on subcommittees so that they will have different experiences.

#### University Systems Relations Committee (C. White)

J. Hall said that additional Senate members are needed for this committee. Members will liaison with the UT system and UT Health Sciences. The issue of branding for UTK versus the UT system will be discussed. The new funding model, which J. Cheek mentioned, will also be discussed.

C. White raised the issue of including the SGA president as an ex-officio member of Faculty Senate. There was discussion on whether a student could bring an issue before the Senate. J. Poore indicated that based on by-laws, only Faculty Senate members could bring forth issues for discussion.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

#### Tennessee University Faculty Senates (J. Hall)

TUFS will be looking at current policies on guns on campus and Sex Week.

#### Interim Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence (J. Hall)

J. Hall reiterated that the new policy is an important document. J. Fowler indicated that a task force has been formed to review/revise the new policy, but she did not know who was on the task force.

#### Suggestions for Speakers for the Executive Council and Senate Meetings to Advance Initiatives (J. Hall)

J. Hall indicated that suggestions for speakers for Senate meetings are needed. K. Wong stated that she would like to know if students who take advantage of free 2-yr tuition at community colleges are prepared to enter UT during their junior year. J. Hall responded that Provost Martin could address that issue. Although there is concern about their academic preparations, UT also wants to make the pipeline between 2-year schools and UT as easy as possible. B.

Ownley mentioned that Animal Science has been keeping records on junior transfers versus UT students on coursework in their department. There was also discussion on whether the general education courses from 2-yr schools are comparable to those offered at UT.

#### At-large Faculty Senators (J. Hall)

J. Hall mentioned that 'At large' Faculty Senators could serve on the University Relations Committee.

#### Update from University Faculty Council (UFC) (C. White)

C. White asked, "How do we face the reduction in funding from the State?" She indicated that uniform policies are needed on professional development, family benefits, and availability of library resources. T. Shepardson added that she was aware that Faculty visiting UT in the summer for the Marco Institute have had trouble with access to library resources.

#### Other Business

- K. Wong indicated that a problem with obtaining books from UT Bookstore has developed. The process has changed. This summer books were not available until several weeks into the semester. The problem is mostly with undergraduate and general education courses. The bookstore has reduced the percentage of books that they order. J. Hall suggested that the Teaching Council and Undergraduate Council work together and meet with someone at the bookstore to obtain more information.
- C. White asked whether we needed someone designated to go to the Accessibility Council. J. Hall stated that she would follow-up on this.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.