

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
February 2, 2015

Absent: Mary Albrecht, Joe Bailey, Rob Blitt, Marianne Breinig, Barry Bruce, Guoxun Chen, Chris Cimino, Matthew Cooper, Ray Degennaro, Neal EAsh, Dan Flint, Patricia Freeland, Alex Freire, Hansjoerg Goeritz, Iris Goodwin, John Haas, Denita Hadziabdic-Guerry, Irene Hanning-Jarquín, David Harper, Derek Hopko, Noriko Horiguchi, Jacqueline Johnson, Mike Jones, Laurie Knox, John Koontz, Dayton Lambert, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Fran Li, Judy Li, Jeanie Lim, Chris Magra, Angela McClure, Agricola Odoi, Spencer Olmstead, Jessica Poore, Catherine Remus, Jennifer Richards, Ragan Schriver, Vandana Singh, Steve Smith, Olya Smrkovski, Marlys Staudt, Paul Terry, Kris Tobin, Micheline Van Riemsdijk, Christian Vossler, Forbes Walker, Micheline Westfall, Philip Ye, Xiaopeng Zhao

Guests: Jimmy Cheek, Tim Cross, Ramakrishnan Kalyanaraman, David Patterson, Carey Whitworth

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Quorum was established by J. Hall and B. MacLennan.

II. CALL TO ORDER

J. Hall called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

The Chancellor felt that this legislative session has potential. UT has seen some great things happen: We are listed as a Carnegie Engaged Institution. President Obama's visit made the news because of the community college program, but he was here to announce a major grant to UTK: \$259 million, with 122 partners, public and private, for the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation. It was the brainchild of Taylor Eighmy, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

Next month we will get a progress report on the alternatives to the SAIS class evaluation forms. They have considered a number of options and are working on an instrument that will have some flexibility.

President's Report (J. Hall)

J. Hall initiated a conversation around concerns that had been raised about proportionality with respect to Tenure Track (TT) and Non-Tenure Track (NTT) Faculty in the Senate. M. Collins pointed out that according to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment UTK Fact Book (<http://oed.utk.edu/utk-fact-book/>), the university-wide percentages are 71% TT and 29% NTT. The Faculty Senate percentages are 74/25. After a strong first year of NTT elections, the TT numbers actually increased 8% last year. He wondered whether this was a problem. S. Hutson asked how many seats were open. B. MacLennan said he knew four were open in engineering. M. Brown stated that she had asked 15 TT faculty to help fill two openings and they had indicated that they would be available until after tenure. In certain departments, it may be hard to fill all seats without some NTT senators. M. Beck noted even if

the balance were to change, the specific problems were unclear. J. Hall responded that populating committees might be an issue given that we need TT on certain committees. The business on other committees has to do with TT conditions and concerns more particularly. Also, the issue of having a strong voice—TT have greater freedom to speak up on controversial issues. D. Fox said that encouraging TT to run provides some protections for NTT who have a hard time saying no. V. Mayfield asked what happens if we put in arbitrary restrictions: if no TT faculty want to run, does the unit or division lose representation? G. Duscher said that a key problem is getting TT to participate. K. Yeager observed that diversity is strength, and we have a variety of views expressed with NTT participating, TT not wanting to serve is a separate issue. M. Brown stated that for not-yet tenured TT faculty, tenure is important, and there is a sense of putting themselves at risk. C. Parigger asked since we're at 3 to 1 currently, what's the likelihood of going 1 to 1? J. Hall responded that she had heard that some untenured TT faculty were discouraged by heads and deans. J. Fowler said that it's up to caucus chairs: elections are open depending on ballot—we need to get TT people to run. T. Hazen said that having a large proportion of NTT is beneficial, both pedagogically for NTT professional development and for the body as a whole to get new ideas and opinions. S. Hutson responded that there are some committees, though, where one might have NTT making decisions about TT appeals, research, etc. S. Murphy replied that NTT could read and learn, and that TT make frequent decisions about NTT. M. Beck was curious how such a balance would be implemented. J. Hall responded that if we agreed that it was an issue, we could then develop specifics. M. Collins reported that the NTT Committee does not feel the issue is worth a follow-up. S. Hutson made a motion to set the ratio of NTT/TT faculty in the senate to match that of the general faculty. J. Hall called for a second, but no second was offered, and the motion was not considered.

IV. MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2014: M. Collins moved to approve them. W. Jennings seconded. Motion passed. The Executive Council Minutes of January 20, 2015, were presented for informational purposes.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gender Neutral Family Style Restrooms Update (J. Hall)

J. Hall reported that all parties seem satisfied with the Chancellor's letter and commitment to new construction. The bill (<http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/RestroomBill.pdf>) and response letter (http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/Chancellor_Letter-to-Commissions-Regarding-Gender-Neutral-Family-Style-Restrooms.pdf) are posted on the Senate website.

Employee Engagement Survey Update (J. Hall)

J. Hall stated that UT had a 62% response rate, which was very good. The results will come back sometime in March.

Advocacy Update Presentation (C. Whitworth)

Carey Whitworth (Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy) reported on the UT Advocacy office, and how the faculty could help. The presentation will be posted on the Senate website.

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Athletics Committee (D. Kopsell)

D. Kopsell informed the Senate about the letter from concerned faculty members about worker safety in Bangladesh and UT's involvement through merchandise agreements. In general, UT is on board with this. Any faculty members interested can contact Michelle Christian in Sociology.

Library & Information Technology Committee (K. Wong)

Members were asked to forward any questions about Elements to her.

Nominations & Appointments Committee (B. MacLennan)

Emails have been sent to caucus chairs to encourage them to start recruiting. We need to have two candidates for each open position—there are about 30 open positions. B. MacLennan brought forward the calendar for meetings for next year from the Executive Council. A motion was made and seconded to accept the calendar, and the motion passed.

B. MacLennan encouraged all committees to look at the Senate bylaws to see if they can be streamlined. K. Wong noted that the size of the Library and Information Technology Committee had been expanded, which made establishing a quorum difficult. M. Beck asked about the origin of the notion of quorum for committee—it's not specified in the bylaws, and it's a matter of concern if different practices are happening on different committees. C. Parigger pointed out that practices should be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, as described in our bylaws. M. Palenchar noted that a simple majority is the rule. T. Shepardson added that quorum does not include ex-officio members.

Undergraduate Council (M. Palenchar)

M. Palenchar highlighted the major curriculum changes from the minutes of the Undergraduate Council's meeting of October 21, 2014. Minutes of UC meetings are posted (http://web.utk.edu/~ugcouncil/public_html/minutes.html). Nursing is making changes to meet accreditation requirements. Business Administration is creating an entrepreneurship minor. Education, Health, and Human Services is making changes to course titles and descriptions. S. Hutson seconded the motion from the Council to approve the minutes, and the motion passed.

The second report from January 27, 2015, covered a new accelerated 5-year program in Biosystems Engineering honors concentration. The College of Architecture and Design added four new minors. The changes in Arts and Sciences were numerous but minor, with the exception of Modern Foreign Languages' addition of an Arab studies minor, a Russian minor, and an International Affairs minor. Pre-law is setting up a 6-year program: 3 years of Arts and Sciences and 3 years of Law. Students would receive a B.A. and a J.D. Most of this work was done at the committee level—not everything passed the committee, and three major issues were pushed back to next year. It is an active process. All of the proposed changes passed the committee unanimously. K. Yeager second the motion to accept the minutes. T. Shepardson clarified the scope of some of the changes. K. Wong asked what happens to students involved in dropped programs. M. Palenchar replied that we maintain resources and courses until current students complete the program. The motion passed. M. Palenchar offered two comments. 1) He encouraged the use of the consent agenda. In the current session, there were 300 pages of changes but only about 50 were on the consent agenda. More could have been: he implored us to use the consent agenda to speed up the business of the committee

and free up their time to talk about larger issues and cross currents. 2) He also wanted to offer thanks to all who served on the committee in doing its important work.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

University Faculty Council Report (C. White)

In November, representatives from Human Resources talked about the Employment Engagement Survey. She noted that the real issue can be buried in the aggregate numbers, which don't always tell us what's going on at the department level where problems often are. Also, she noted that there is no consistency among campuses on how data are handled. Senate presidents are going to request the data, to which the chancellor agreed. They are particularly interested in item by item results on shared governance for Senate.

On one campus they had sanctions other than termination. It was presented there as policy handed down from the administration rather than a part of the Faculty Handbook, which raised some concern as a precedent. Memphis is having some issues—we need to be aware of the process. There will be a state-wide task force on accessibility for educational materials. Depending on how this is implemented, it can be a work burden. There are also issues around course collaboration: online classes offered on one campus, and accepted by others. Across the system, senates have given lists of senators to the Advocacy Office. It's currently only a small proportion of faculty, and we need to expand. The UFC will meet at the Board of Trustees meeting in February.

Outreach and Engagement Resolution (J. Fowler, D. Patterson)

J. Fowler introduced David Patterson, who talked about criteria for outreach and engagement in appointment, and in recognition and rewards sections of the Faculty Handbook. J. Fowler noted that the Faculty Affairs Committee has approved it and they are bringing it for a vote. The motion was seconded and passed. D. Patterson noted that the next steps will involve including NTT faculty. The resolution is posted at <http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/Outreach-and-Engagement-Resolution-Fac-Senate-Ex-Comm-Approved.pdf>.

Relationships with Students Proposed Handbook Change (J. Fowler)

J. Fowler described the background of the issue: the proposal came from John Zomchick's office, the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Senate's Executive Council. We will be voting on it in the future. She solicited any comments, and asked that they be sent to the Faculty Affairs committee. This is posted at <http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/Relationships-Between-Faculty-and-Students-2.pdf>.

Extension Faculty Resolution (J. Fowler, T. Cross)

Tim Cross (Dean of UT Extension) was introduced. The proposal adds NTT titles, specifically related to UT Extension as none of the current NTT titles cover what they do. T. Cross said that they are increasingly dependent on grant and contract funds, and this would help with those grants, as well as giving them voice in faculty governance. The motion was seconded and passed. The resolution is posted at <http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/Extension-Faculty-Resolution-12615.pdf>.

Graduate Student Residency Resolution (K. Singer)

Steven Jones apprised the Senate of a bill in the Graduate Student Senate on exploring how UT can start to change state residency guidelines. To do so would increase UT's competitiveness for graduate students and increase socioeconomic diversity. For students, it would alleviate non-work stress. While this is a state regulation we have no control over, the BOT is given authority to determine how to classify students as out-of-state. We can make sure that TN taxpayers don't shoulder the burden. This would also align us with our Top 25 aspirational peers. R. Kalyanaraman asked about the process of becoming a TN resident. S. Jones noted that it was easy with the state, but not with UT, where there was a Catch-22 rule. P. McArthur asked if we could do this for graduate and not undergraduate students. S. Jones replied that we could because the two categories of student had different responsibilities. He noted that UT could actually generate more income because it would attract more students. C. Parigger asked about the ability to appeal the residency determination. Jones replied that it was nearly impossible to get an appeal. You have to prove you didn't come here to go to school. He encouraged us to email GSS@utk.edu with further questions. The resolution is posted at http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/Residency-Bill_final_FacultySenate.pdf.

IRB and iMedRIS Status Report (T. Shepardson)

T. Shepardson reported that the Research Council has been dealing with ongoing questions about the IRB system. Robert Nobles is in the process of scheduling a workshop on campus from an outside group involved in IRB so that we can have an external voice. The workshop will be by the end of the semester—possibly the study day before exams. If faculty want to have input, send it to R. Nobles. There is an ongoing conversation on iMedRIS. The Senate Executive Council continues to bring issues to the Office of Research, and T. Shepardson encouraged us to bring concerns or issues to J. Hall or R. Nobles.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by J. Hall at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Spirko,
Communication Officer