

FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes  
September 15, 2014

Absent: Mary Albrecht, Benjamin Auerbach, Rob Blitt, Barry Bruce, Margaret Casado, Guoxun Chen, Christopher Cherry, Courtney Childers, Chris Cimino, Matthew Cooper, Mark Dean, Joanne Deeken, Ray Degennaro, Ian Down, Dan Flint, Alex Freire, Hansjoerg Goertiz, John Haas, Irene Hanning-Jarquín, Christy Hickman, Noriko Horiguchi, Sadie Hutson, Jacqueline Johnson, Mike Jones, Laurie Knox, Fangxing (Fran) Li, Jeanie Lim, Angela McClure, Larry Miller, Shelley Newman, Agricola Odoi, Gina Owens, Yvonne Pelletier, Cindy Raines, Catherine Remus, Ragan Schriver, John Schwartz, Vandana Singh, Steve Smith, Olya Smrkovski, Marlys Staudt, Dawnie Steadman, Paul Terry, Micheline Van Riemsdijk, Forbes Walker, Micheline Westfall, Philip Ye

Guest: William (Bill) Fox

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

Quorum was established by J. Poore.

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

The meeting was called to order by J. Hall at 3:31 p.m.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- The UT Board of Trustees held a retreat and discussed the current state of finances of the university, and current and future financial support from the State of Tennessee. J. DiPietro posed the following scenario: inflation stable at 3% per year, tuition increases restricted to 3% per year, and no increases in state monies, what would the university do? J. Cheek indicated that the most basic solution would be to increase enrollment. He emphasized that this is still a theoretical problem with a theoretical solution, but we may need to address the issue and implement changes soon.
- The university has seen major improvements in our 6-yr (+9%) and 4-yr (+6%) graduation rates. Grants and contracts have increased by \$85M in five years. There have been significant increases in development funding, and in the credentials of incoming freshmen. As an institution, significant progress has been made. We will continue to work toward the goal of being a much better university.

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

- J. Hall asked S. Martin to speak on the issue of how the Tennessee Promise program will affect UTK enrollment. S. Martin indicated that the new program has become an opportunity to review admissions and enrollment strategies and initiatives. This year, ~1,200 transfer students were admitted, and most are in the College of Arts and Sciences. Most transfer students were in-state residents (86%) and were from 2-year colleges, with a high percentage from Pellissippi State Community College (PSCC).
- S. Martin explained that the Tennessee Promise program is patterned after existing programs, Knox Achieves and Tennessee Achieves. For Tennessee Promise, beginning with 2015 high school graduates, students can receive two years of undergraduate education tuition-free at community colleges. The students are required to do service, and must have a mentor. S. Martin stated that it has been estimated that 4% of those eligible will take advantage of this opportunity. For students entering 4-year universities as freshmen, Hope Scholarship funding will be decreased for freshman and sophomore students (\$3,500 per year), with more funding given for the junior and senior years (\$4,500 per year). UTK plans

to market the 4-yr residential experience for students, and work on building a pipeline of well-qualified transfer students. Enrollment will be managed in a strategic fashion to determine what the number of junior transfer students should be. An agreement with the Tennessee Board of Regent schools will guarantee admission to UTK for a specific group of students; however, UTK is permitted to be selective in transfer admissions. The agreement will admit students with Associate's degrees and a 3.0 GPA, but their admittance to certain academic majors is not guaranteed.

- A new eight-semester degree plan is being developed with PSCC. In the past, "pathways" were created that facilitated transfer of students from junior colleges. The new plan will specify which PSCC courses match UTK requirements, and will indicate key milestones (e.g., a "C" or better grade must be attained in key classes). The courses will also fulfill the transfer pathways.
- S. Martin indicated that they are also working on improving the process and experience for transfer students. There will be "transfer counselors" for each of the three geographic regions in Tennessee. Student progress will be tracked with uTrack. They are also going to review the current process for establishing equivalency of courses transferred.
- The State of Tennessee is currently reviewing the "pathways" for junior transfers statewide, and faculty members have been included in the review process. It is hoped that the state will adopt a statewide articulation tool.
- Questions followed. M. Breinig asked what the percentage of transfer students accepted was. S. Martin replied that she did not have that figure with her, but would get back to her. A question was raised as to whether junior transfers could compete with the credentials of incoming freshmen. S. Martin stated that in many cases, transfer students had overcome many difficulties to be able to transfer to UTK, they had demonstrated maturation with additional time, and had attained a 2-year degree. K. Wong asked whether we are planning to maintain the same numbers of transfer students in the future, and whether there would be new faculty lines to go along with increased student numbers mentioned by J. Cheek. S. Martin said that she is not advocating increasing transfer numbers. V. Mayfield asked what the high school GPA needed for Tennessee Promise was, and S. Martin answered 2.0.

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

- J. Hall presented a resolution honoring Stefanie Ohnesorg for her contributions as Information Officer of the Faculty Senate (2009-2014).

### *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate*

*WHEREAS, Stefanie Ohnesorg is a distinguished Associate Professor in the Department of German and Slavic Languages at the University of Tennessee, dedicated to high expectations in teaching; and*

*WHEREAS, she has been an exemplary scholar and outstanding regional leader in the field of Modern Foreign Languages and literature, integrating German language and culture into the Southeastern United States; and*

*WHEREAS, she was a founder of the German School of Knoxville and has served as its Principal and President, showing commitment to interculturalism; and*

*WHEREAS, she has served as Chair of German Studies, as well as Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literature, demonstrating leadership and commitment to her colleagues; and*

*WHEREAS, she has won numerous honors, including the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Associations Jacqueline Elliott Award for Teaching and Service in Higher Education, exhibiting excellence as a scholar, teacher and leader in her field and beyond; and*

*WHEREAS, she served as a Faculty Senator from 2004-2007, as a member of numerous committees and task forces, indicating her remarkable work ethic and value of the faculty and their needs; and*

*WHEREAS, she has served as the Senate Information Officer from 2008-2014, in which time she has faithfully and skillfully kept the archives, edited the Senate Newsletter, and shown wisdom and objectivity in the Executive Council; and*

*WHEREAS, she has been an active participant in, and advocate for, the UTK Faculty Senate and the University,*

*THEFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The University of Tennessee Knoxville Faculty Senate expresses sincere appreciation and gratitude to*

***Stefanie Ohnesorg***

*for her exemplary, consistent leadership and service to the Faculty Senate and the University of Tennessee; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*** a copy of this resolution be presented to Stefanie Ohnesorg, and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on September 15, 2014.

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*Bonnie H. Ownley, Ph. D.*  
*Secretary*

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*Joanne M. Hall, Ph.D.*  
*President*

- J. Hall presented a resolution honoring David Golden for his contributions as President of Faculty Senate (2013-2014).

***The University of Tennessee, Knoxville***  
***Faculty Senate***

*WHEREAS, David A. Golden has strengthened and extended communication in the Senate, and has provided clear communication with the administration in multiple ways; and*

*WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2013-2014 academic year, providing his leadership to ensure the success of open dialogue in forums on academic freedom; and*

*WHEREAS, he has facilitated extension of the use of universal sick and bereavement leave for employees of the university; and*

*WHEREAS, he calmly and transparently represented the faculty views in serving on the Task Force of the joint resolution on student use of student activity fees, providing guidance through difficult legislative issues; and*

*WHEREAS, he has served the Faculty Senate and the faculty of this campus as a member of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates and the University Faculty Council and as a member and chair of various Faculty Senate, campus, and University committees and task forces; and*

*WHEREAS, he now will serve the faculty and the campus further in his role as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee,*

*THEFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT* The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to

*David A. Golden*

*for his exemplary leadership and service to the Faculty Senate and The University of Tennessee; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* a copy of this Resolution be presented to David A. Golden and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on September 15, 2014

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*Bonnie H. Ownley, Ph.D.*  
*Secretary*

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*Joanne M. Hall, PhD, RN, FAAN*  
*President*

Approval of the resolutions by acclamation was affirmed with applause.

#### **IV. MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

J. Hall presented the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of May 5, 2014, for approval. R. Spirko made a motion to approve the minutes, M. Collins seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The unapproved minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting of September 2, 2014, have been posted for review.

#### **V. MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE COUNCILS**

Minutes of the Undergraduate Council Meeting of April 8, 2014, and the Graduate Council Meeting of April 10, 2014, were presented for approval, and the minutes were approved as written.

#### **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Senate Bylaws Change Regarding Student Government Association (SGA) President as Ex Officio Senate Member (D. Golden and J. Fowler)

The bylaws amendment to enable the SGA president, or their designee, to serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the Faculty Senate was presented at the previous Faculty Senate meeting (May 5, 2014). That presentation is considered a first reading due to the time requirement needed for consideration by the Senate. J. Hall called for a vote on the bylaws amendment and the amendment was approved.

Senate Bylaws Change Regarding the Title and Role of the Information Officer (R. Spirko)

R. Spirko presented the bylaws change, which is considered a first reading. He proposed that the title of the role be changed from Information Officer to Communication Officer. The duties of the position are given in the proposed bylaws change below.

Article IV. Section 5. ~~Information-Communication Officer~~. There shall be an ~~Information-a~~ Communication Officer nominated by the Executive Council subject to approval of the Faculty Senate membership to serve a one-year term. The ~~Information-Communication Officer~~ shall manage disseminating information, ~~and maintaining~~ maintain Faculty Senate archives ~~and be the editor of the Faculty Senate newsletter~~, oversee the Faculty Senate website, and foster two-way communication. The Communication Officer shall be an administrator (along with the President) of the Faculty Info and Faculty Senate listservs. The Communication Officer shall be responsible for assessing the effectiveness of Senate communications and keeping abreast of such developments in communication technology as might be useful for the Senate.

There will be a call for a vote on this proposed change at the next meeting of the Senate.

#### **VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Undergraduate Council (M. Palenchar)

No updates are available at this time.

Graduate Council (P. Freeland)

No updates are available at this time.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Approval of Faculty Senate Committees (J. Hall)

J. Hall indicated that membership of all of the Faculty Senate (FS) committees are listed on the FS website. She acknowledged J. Fowler, who spoke of the need for one additional member on the Faculty Affairs Committee, and called for volunteers. Although no volunteers were forthcoming, J.

Fowler indicated that she had someone in mind for this task. J. Hall called for a motion to accept membership on all committees except the Faculty Affairs Committee, which will be approved later. J. Koontz made a motion to accept the proposed committee membership, C. Magra seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

At-large Faculty Senate Executive Council Member Appointments (J. Hall)

Steven Waller and Deborah Baldwin have been appointed to serve as at-large members of the FS Executive Council.

Faculty Senate Retreat Presentations (J. Hall)

Presentations given by J. Zomchick and R. Nobles at the FS Retreat have been posted on the FS website.

Senate and other Faculty Appointments to other Groups/Entities (J. Hall)

The following individuals have been appointed to various committees and boards:

- Tennessee University Faculty Senates (M. Griffin)
- Technology Advisory Board (T. Stevens)
- Campus Planning and Design (G. Kalas)
- Emergency Management Committee (P. McArthur)
- Committee on Campus Environment – J. Hall announced that a volunteer is needed for appointment to this committee

University Faculty Council Update (C. White)

C. White was not available and a report will be available at the next FS meeting.

Presentation by William (Bill) Fox on Economic State of Tennessee

B. Fox outlined the current economic situation for the U.S. and State of Tennessee (GDP, consumer spending and debt, federal deficit, inflation, employment, TN budget and tax structure, TN economic growth), and prospects for funding for higher education and other state agencies given these parameters. His presentation is available on the FS website, <http://cdn-senate.utk.edu/files/2014/08/Faculty-Senate-091514.pdf>.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by J. Hall at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie H. Ownley,  
Secretary