Report from the Budget and Planning Committee November 2, 2015

The UTK Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee has had two meetings that included discussions of the issue of outsourcing facilities and management services. This discussion has included Chancellor Cheek and Vice Chancellor Cimino (note that VC Cimino is serving on the State-wide Strategy for Efficiencies in Real Estate Management (SEREM) Committee).

We discussed the suggested resolution read to the Senate at the September 21 meeting by Cassie Watters. We also initiated a discussion with the University Faculty Council on the matter through the UTK representative, Professor Candace White.

We concluded that it would be beneficial for the Senate to formally support the public statements of President DiPietro regarding the UT System response to State actions. We have worded the below proposed resolution in a manner that we suggest it might be similarly adopted with slight modifications at other UT System campuses by their respective Senates.

The Committee has included in the below draft a statement in { ...} that we suggest might be included to go beyond support of President DiPietro and state Senate opposition to further outsourcing given lack of evidence of benefit. However we were not sure the full Senate would support this inclusion so we are sending it to the Exec Committee for further consideration of this portion.

WHEREAS, Governor Haslam recently initiated a call to examine potential benefits to the state of Tennessee by outsourcing the management and operations of virtually every state-owned facility, including college and university buildings.

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee at Knoxville has in the past and has continued to outsource a variety of operations to meet campus requirements while constraining costs.

WHEREAS, President Joe DiPietro has repeatedly stated his objective to make decisions regarding outsourcing that are appropriately chosen to meet the needs of the various units of The University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville has been well-served over recent years through the closing of outsourced contracts of certain campus services and the hiring of regular, full-time employees to provide these services.

The UTK Faculty of Senate resolve that:

As there has been no evidence provided to support the benefits to campus life or any significant cost savings of further outsourcing of facility and management services {, we oppose the potential additional outsourcing that could be forced upon the UT System due to State actions }.

We support President DiPietro's position that outsourcing of services at the various University of Tennessee campuses be decided by the University community rather than by a central State authority.