

Faculty Senate Executive Council  
MINUTES  
February 22, 2016

Present: Bruce MacLennan, Richard Bennett, Ernest Bernard, Jennifer Fowler, Lou Gross, Joanne Hall, Stephen Kania, Dean Kopsell, Mary McAlpin, Bonnie Ownley, Rebecca Prosser, Robert Spirko, Phyllis Thompson, Candace White, Kathi Wong

Guests: Jimmy Cheek, Susan Martin

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and a quorum was established.

## **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

### President's Report (B. MacLennan)

- Introduction of Denita Hadziabdic-Guerry. She will be co-chairing the Non-tenure Track Issues Committee with Allie Brown through the remainder of spring semester and next year.
- Attended rally sponsored by UCW-CWA, AAUP, Senate, and various other groups on February 5, 2016. Spoke about faculty support for diversity, concerns about outsourcing, interference from legislators with university governance, and concerns about reconstitution of BoT.
- Provided an interview with WMOT (MTSU station) as a follow-up on the 2/5/16 rally. Provided an interview with the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on February 11, 2016, about diversity and legislative interference. M. McAlpin was also interviewed.
- UCW Lobby Day will be held in Nashville on March 2016. Several buses are scheduled to take people to the event. All are encouraged to attend. <http://ucw-cwa.org/content/lobby-day>
- Attended State of UT address in Nashville last Tuesday. President DiPietro stressed the importance of diversity and UT's ability to still opt out of privatization if it's in the best interest of UT. The "long arm of legislature" was also mentioned. The speech was viewed positively.
- M. McAlpin asked if there were any updates related to the bills regarding guns on campus. B. MacLennan noted that the bill is coming up quickly. The subject is scheduled to come up for discussion tomorrow, February 23, 2016, among committee. C. Myers updated a one-page document on how to talk to Legislatures and a fact sheet. Both documents were sent out to faculty.

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

- Next Wednesday the Chancellor, Rickey Hall, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, and President DiPietro will attend a hearing with the House Education Committee. They are preparing for the meeting and the core message he will focus on is that diversity is central to staff, faculty, and students. Data will be shared with legislators showing the need for why we need funding and the benefits diversity brings. We are nearing the end of this legislative session.
- A recent article in the Knoxville News-Sentinel has drawn attention to the current lawsuit filed against the university. The Chancellor emphasized that UT takes sexual assault very seriously and administrators have been working hard to make our campus a safe place for everyone. He noted that he has met with many students and has held open forums and

no one has asked him about it. The Chancellor had a statement from the university's attorney, and at the request of M. McAlpin, the statement was read aloud. He asked for everyone to please take the time to read the university's response to the allegations, which will soon be released.

- The concern about outsourcing was raised and J. Cheek noted that the administration is not opposed to outsourcing but they do want to make sure it would make financial sense. He acknowledged that there are also other considerations that include the students' concerns for staff they have developed relationships with (e.g. resident staff). He emphasized that the decision to outsource still rests with the university and the President and Anthony Hanes are doing really good work.

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

- Dixie Thompson recently accepted the position of Vice Provost, Dean of the Graduate School. A thank you was extended to all by the Provost.
- J. Morrow sent a new survey to S. Martin. Provost Martin will forward the document to B. MacLennan to provide to everyone for review. She would like to have feedback. J. Morrow will also be summarizing ~450 student survey responses.
- L. Gross asked if there is a better way to address problems graduate students are having with finding campus parking. Provost Martin acknowledged that the subject of parking has been increasingly coming up and that there are current discussions taking place. Gross asked if there is going to be more parking, and Provost Martin believes there is as there is a lot of new parking going up. Gross noted that good parking helps to attract students. K. Wong added that there are a number of construction workers that are taking up parking spots now.

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

K. Wong moved to approve the Executive Council meeting minutes of January 19, 2016 (<http://senate.utk.edu/archives/senate-reports-minutes-publications-2015-2016>). E. Bernard seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.

### **IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### Appeals Committee (R. Prosser)

None.

#### Athletics Committee (D. Kopsell)

None.

#### Benefits and Professional Development Committee (M. Beck)

None.

#### Budget and Planning Committee (L. Gross)

- Vice Chancellor Taylor Eighmy and Assistant Vice Chancellor Beth Neilson from Research & Engagement on February 8, 2016. Dr. Eighmy provided a presentation *Future Budgetary Perspective and Alignment with Academic Objective*.
- February 15, 2016, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Chris Cimino, provided an open Information UT Budget Forum for faculty, staff, and students (<http://www.nimbios.org/~gross/Senate/BudgetForum2016.pptx>).

- L. Gross drafted a report in response to claims that tuition increases are caused by high faculty pay increases. He looked at data over the past 25 years and found tuition increased by a factor of 6.5 and faculty salary increased by a factor of 2. E. Bernard has heard suggestions that the increases may be a result of the increase of administrators. Gross said he was unable to tease this information out. He stated that there has not been increase in professorial staff but there has been an increase in the number of lecturers and instructors. K. Wong asked where the money is going and Gross said that if you analyze the expenditures you see some of the following increases: tuition 4.75, research 4.49, salaries 1.67, operations 2.6, scholarships and fellowships 6.28. J. Hall added that the Chancellor has also pointed out the need to attract good faculty. L. Gross stated the real cause for the increase is the fall of state appropriations, not salary. He was not able to tease apart benefits. C. White added that there is also the increase in the cost of instruction considering we have gone from chalk to smart boards, etc. This information will be shared with the Senate.

#### Nominations and Appointments Committee (B. Ownley)

- Elections should be completed by April 1, 2016, so the information can be reported at the next Senate meeting. There have been a few challenges as it was discovered some of the caucus chairs are no longer at UT. This has all been resolved. The Space Institute will now assign two Senators and a third person will serve as an alternate which resolves the problem from last year when there was some insistence to put three Senators up instead of the two that are allotted.
- B. Ownley is encouraging all caucuses to have an alternate. She has also stressed to all caucuses that they need to make sure all the information is going to all tenure and non-tenured faculty members.

#### Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

- Faculty Evaluation Manual (FEM; please see new business).

#### Graduate Council (S. Kania)

- Distributed Graduate Curriculum committee report ([http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/CurrComm/Curric\\_Comm\\_Report\\_10-29-15\\_Meeting.pdf](http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/CurrComm/Curric_Comm_Report_10-29-15_Meeting.pdf)).
- L. Gross shared a concern of a faculty colleague who is concerned that individuals who have not been hired by UT are being allowed to direct dissertations at the Bredesen Center. He stated the concern is related to quality and asked if there are people who are allowed to direct if they are not affiliated with the program. S. Kania said that the Bredesen Center is recognized as a graduate program and that there are some people who are looking to get rid of the credential board.
- B. Ownley asked S. Kania if he could provide a list to purge courses that no longer exist. He stated that it is up to the Department Head to monitor and edit the list and they can contact the graduate school to delete the course(s).

#### Library and Information Technology Committee (K. Wong)

- Question was raised on if the Senate wants to spend money from the budget to pay for Zoom at Senate meetings. The cost is \$80.00. K. Wong noted the charge was initially \$40.00 but based on the amount of time the price is now doubled. The money is paid for the time of OIT. J. Hall shared that she supports paying it. Currently the Senate has little

expenses now. Based on the discussion, K. Wong summarized that if OIT cannot waive the fee waived then the Senate will pay the \$80.00.

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

- M. Collins shared that he will be able to continue to serve on the Faculty Senate Executive Council until the end of the year.
- M. Collins and D. Hadziabdic-Guerry will be meeting with John Zomchick.

Research Council (R. Kalyanaraman)

None.

Teaching and Learning Council (J. Richards)

None.

Undergraduate Council (R. Bennett)

Distributed Undergraduate curriculum and summarized the major changes that were made at the last Council meeting (<http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2015/11/UG-Council-Curriculum-Changes-Summary-1-26-16.pdf>).

University Systems Relations Committee (S. Blackwell)

None.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Faculty Evaluation Manual and QEP (J. Fowler)

Dr. Matthew Theriot is requesting to change the language in the *Faculty Evaluation Manual* so it is in line with the University's new QEP. Several voiced they were not supportive of the change and after discussion, L. Gross recommended sending the request back to the Faculty Affairs Committee as this has not yet been approved by them. J. Fowler noted that Dr. Theriot said he would come to talk to the Senate. She will bring the matter back to the Faculty Affairs Committee and get back to the Council.

Treatment of UTSI Faculty Assembly in FS Bylaws (B. Ownley)

Question was raised about making a change to current bylaws to align with what UTSI are doing? E. Bernard noted that there is a problem that UTSI rotates Senators and they only serve two years, while our bylaws say Senators serve for three years. He further stated that UTSI should be adapting to the Senate's bylaws, not us to them. C. White said we would need to look at all units/departments/colleges and says no to changing the bylaws. M. Collins noted that we would lose the experience of those who would serve four, five, and six years. He and J. Fowler both support C. White and E. Bernard's position that UTSI needs to follow the Senate bylaws. B. MacLennan stated that UTSI need to follow the Senate's bylaws.

Response to Legislative Initiatives (B. MacLennan)

Tabled.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.