

Faculty Senate Executive Council
MINUTES
November 2, 2015

Present: Bruce MacLennan, Micah Beck, Richard Bennett, Ernest Bernard, Steve Blackwell, Mark Collins, Jennifer Fowler, Lou Gross, Joanne Hall, Ramki Kalyanaraman, Dean Kopsell, Mary McAlpin, Bonnie Ownley, Rebecca Prosser, Robert Spirko, Phyllis Thompson, Steven Waller, Candace White, Kathi Wong

Guests: Jimmy Cheek and Susan Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and a quorum was established.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

President's Report (B. MacLennan)

- Has been recently contacting individuals to see if they would be willing to be nominated for serving on the University Space Committee that will be implementing some new policies and the Campus Planning and Design Committee. C. White suggested having more communication with the Teaching and Learning Council and Senate members when recommendations are being made for participation on special committees. B. MacLennan assured everyone that he has had these discussions.
- Attended part of a meeting for the Commission for LBGTQ People. There are current plans to make the campus website more welcoming for potential LBGTQ faculty.
- Encouraged members to watch the video of the last Senate Higher Education Meeting.
- There is a possibility that there may be another movement gaining force to support guns on campus. Suggested possibly looking at creating a similar resolution like the one that was put forth 5-years ago.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

- Strategic Plan: Pleased with the current strategic plan assessment progression. So far there have been 900 people from all over the university involved in the process. The plan is to maintain the integrity of the old strategic plan but provide more clarity. For example, while diversity is included within the original plan they will be adding section #6 to make diversity its own separate unit. This will help to heighten awareness of diversity. In comparison to other similar universities we are doing relatively well when it comes to diversity. Diversity is a key priority of our campus and has been for years. The revised strategic plan will be presented for approval to the Board of Trustees during the March 2016 meeting. L. Gross asked Provost Martin if the Senate or a representative body can give input on the

draft before it is finalized. She stated that the plan will be shared once it's finalized.

- There was a recent request for a House committee meeting from a Congressperson due to concerns about money the university is spending on diversity. Questions focused on why the money was being spent. The committee meeting will probably occur within the next 60 days.
- Students were able to attend and observe the last Tennessee Senate Higher Education Subcommittee meeting. They were encouraged to communicate their thoughts about diversity to their own representatives and to vote.
- Shared that there are senators who are very committed to the overall vision and wellbeing of the university. J. Hall asked how much we spend on diversity as compared to peer universities. Chancellor Cheek approximated around 2.5 million has been spent across the entire Tennessee system. He noted that many universities have maintained a cabinet position for diversity for many more years than the last 2.5 years UT has had. R. Kalyanaraman mentioned that one of Carnegie's classifications lists diversity and asked if this information has been shared with the legislators. Chancellor Cheek stated the information has been conveyed along with the role diversity has with grants, contracts, and businesses.
- C. White asked Chancellor Cheek if there is a goal in place to decrease the current salary gaps. He stated that there is a goal to decrease the gap between UTK and peer universities by 15% per year for the next 5 years. On another document UTK will close the gap between 7-10%. He noted that the gap is narrowing despite not doing the best these past 2-years.
- M. McAlpin asked what rights UTK faculty has regarding expression with the Legislature and the Chancellor said the faculty have a right to intervene with budgets.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

- The Space Committee is being reconstituted and Provost Martin expressed thanks for the names that have been forwarded for invitations. The committee will share a draft of a policy that tries to achieve a more efficient process. R. Kalyanaraman raised concern about both undergraduates and graduates being scheduled to areas on campus that impacts their ability to get back and forth from their labs and classes on time (e.g. students being transferred back and forth between campus and Cherokee farms). Provost Martin noted attention will need to be paid to the campus transportation center. M. McAlpin shared that about 1/3 of students drop their courses because they know they are not able to get to their next class within 15 minutes. J. Fowler shared a similar experience and noted that it seems like it is time to do an assessment of class space on campus. Currently between 9:00 am - 3:00 pm there is no campus space available. Concerns were also raised that there also is not enough white boards, that there are also issues involving technology, labs, and disability issues for instructors. Provost Martin noted that not having event space for students is

what has pushed this conversation. She agreed that Tuesday's and Thursday's are worse than Monday's and Wednesday's and that there is a classroom space crunch. She pointed out that one problem is that small classes are being put in large classroom spaces that are not optimal for their size. Provost Martin noted the situation is complicated and the idea of redoing the timetable has been raised. She further stated that it might be time to examine some ideas such as longer blocks of time and redoing the timetable, as these may be valuable discussions to have.

- C. White asked if we will have more classrooms with all the new construction and Provost Martin said Strong Hall will have more classrooms. L. Gross stated that he is aware of some units charging if you want to use space. Provost Martin stated that there are a number of task forces involved. She stated Chris Cimino will ask his resource committee to look at the elaborate fee structure. While all of these issues will need to be hashed out, there is someone looking into this.
- Mic Night was a success with 122 people who registered to attend.
- The Faculty Pub has found a new home.
- L. Gross asked about the Opportunity Hire Program being used to hire for diversity and if the program has been assessed for effectiveness. Provost Martin stated that the Opportunity Hiring Program has been built up to a pretty substantial level to support opportunities for hiring. She estimated approximately \$900,000 is in it currently. They have used this money for spousal and diversity hiring. Thinks having 6th priority is going to open up discussion in a positive way.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. McAlpin moved to approve the Executive Council meeting minutes of October 5, 2015, with the following correction of the third sentence under the heading: Invitation from the Foundation of Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) of New Business: 1) Add the word "track" so the sentence reads: C. White noted that academic freedom is only for tenured track not non-tenured faculty. (<http://senate.utk.edu/archives/senate-reports-minutes-publications-2015-2016>). J. Hall seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the aforementioned correction.

IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Appeals Committee (R. Prosser)

No report.

Athletics Committee (D. Kopsell)

No report.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (M. Beck)

No report.

Budget and Planning Committee (L. Gross)

No report other than an action item that is discussed under new business.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (B. Ownley)

No report.

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

No report.

Graduate Council (S. Kania)

Absent-No report.

Library and Information Technology Committee (K. Wong)

- On November 18, 2015, there will be representatives demonstrating D2L, Canvas, and Blackboard. They will address some specific issues. One is how well each program's grade center works. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to provide feedback. K. Wong stated that there is some faculty feeling anxious about the possibility of change.
- Laurie Knox came off the Teaching and Learning Council and is going to be on the Space Committee.

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

No report.

Research Council (R. Kalyanaraman)

There was a recent presentation by Elizabeth Burman, Director of Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, and discussion involving research outreach and engaging with the community. Please see Minutes posted from the Research Council Meeting dated October 14, 2015 (http://researchcouncil.utdev4.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/47/2015/11/10-14-15_rc_minutes.pdf).

Teaching and Learning Council (J. Richards)

Absent-No report.

Undergraduate Council (R. Bennett)

No report.

University Systems Relations Committee (S. Blackwell)

No report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for Resolution on Outsourcing (L. Gross)

L. Gross provided history regarding the Budget and Planning Committee's work related to the Proposal for the resolution on outsourcing. Please see the 11/02/2015 Budget and Planning Committee report and the proposed resolution at <http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2015/11/BP-Report-11-2-15.pdf> for

background information. During the last meeting the committee voted to bring the proposed resolution back to the Executive Council for further discussion about including the phrase, “we oppose the potential additional outsourcing that could be forced upon the UT System due to State actions” as this might go beyond support of President DiPietro and state Senate opposition to further outsourcing given lack of evidence of benefit. The committee was also unsure if the full Faculty Senate would support this inclusion so the committee wants to rely on the wisdom of Executive Council prior to introducing it to the Faculty Senate.

Following discussions, K. Wong recommended amending the last statement for clarification. M. Collins seconded the modification. E. Bernard recommended changing “Whereas” to “As Resolved” and getting rid of the term various. M. Collins seconded the modification. The committee made a motion to support introducing the revised Proposed Outsourcing Resolution from the Budget and Planning Committee of the UTK Faculty Senate and M. Collins seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Please see document at <http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2015/11/Outsourcing-Resolution-revised.pdf>.

Agenda of Senate Meetings (C. White)

C. White recommended moving visiting speakers to the end of the Faculty Senate’s agenda so they avoid running out of time and so Senate members will not feel rushed when they are working on Senate business. President MacLennan agreed to make the change.

Discussion of Approval of Minutes of Graduate and Undergraduate Councils (C. White)

C. White highlighted that the current bylaws read that the Faculty Senate is responsible for approving the curriculum and that the current practice of approving minutes does not allow any room for clarification. She explained the faculty controls the curriculum and there should not be any catalog changes made prior to a Senate vote. L. Gross recalled that the Senate use to vote on the curriculum. White stated that the current practice is that changes are being made in the catalog whether the changes have been approved or not. E. Bernard stated that there is no necessity for approving minutes. President MacLennan stated that the bylaws currently say we approve the minutes and what has been going on is that the Chairs highlight what they did and we vote on it. Instead of approving minutes we say something else. He further noted that there is an issue of workflow. J. Fowler stated that the Faculty Affairs Committee will be working on the bylaws. M. Collins asked to confirm that the current practice is that changes go from the colleges to the registrar. White confirmed and notes this demonstrates a breakdown in process. J. Hall suggested that the catalog changes are what are focused on. White agreed that the catalog changes are what matters.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.