

## FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

March 7, 2016

Absent: Brian Ambroziak, Rob Blitt, Stan Bowie, Allie Brown\*, Barry Bruce, Vincent Carilli, Christopher Cherry, Chris Cimino, Mark Dean, Mary Derrington, Neal Eash, Alex Freire, Michael Fry, Stephanie Galloway, Jennifer Gramling, Terry Hazen, Christy Hickman, Melissa Hines, Derek Hopko, Shan Jean-Philippe, Jacqueline Johnson, Gregor Kalas, Dayton Lambert, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Fangxing (Fran) Li\*, Judy Li\*, Jeanie Lim, Frank Martin, Susan Martin, Laura Miller, Kevin Moulton, Agricola Odoi, Suzy Prentiss, Cindy Raines, Pat Rutenberg, John Schmisser, John Schwartz, Vandana Singh, George Siopsis, Gary Smith, Olya Smrkovski, Soren Sorensen, Cary Staples, Pedro Tomas, Micheline Van Riemsdijk, Margarita Velandia, Christian Vossler, Brynn Voy, Micheline Westfall, Shellen Wu, Xiaopeng Zhao

Present via Zoom: Margaret Casado, Mark Collins, Shelley Newman, Spencer Olmsted, Jennifer Stokes, Ramon Paul Degennaro

\*Alternates: Katherine Newman for Allie Brown, Jeremy Holleman for Fran Li, Alan Wallace for Judy Li

Guests: Bethany Vanhooser, Student Government Chief of Staff, and Will Freeman, Student Government President

### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM** (E. Bernard)

Quorum established by E. Bernard.

### **II. CALL TO ORDER** (B. MacLennan)

B. MacLennan called the meeting to order 3:31pm.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- Provost Martin will be stepping down at the end of this academic year to return to a faculty teaching position. He recognized Provost Martin as one of the best provosts he has worked with.
- Update on legislative activities. Some of the current proposals that would impact the university include: dissolving and restructuring the Board of Trustees, reducing how much campus can spend on diversity and inclusion, and redistributing \$8 million from the UTK budget to Ag Extension and the Martin and Chattanooga campuses. A Senate finance meeting will be scheduled within the next 5-10 days.
- A question was raised about guns on campus. Currently there are bills proposed to allow guns campus. The UT Chief of Police testified a few years ago conveying concern that allowing guns on campus is a safety issue. The chief and administrators are all continuing to work on this issue.
- Noted the importance of everyone remaining focused and continuing to do a great job. Encouraged everyone to look at the good things that are continuing to happen around campus.

- A request for an update on outsourcing was made. They are continuing to look at numbers and reminded everyone that the university still has the option to participate or opt out.

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

- Attended a rally sponsored by UCW-CWA, AAUP, Faculty Senate, and several other groups on 2/5/2016. Discussed faculty support for diversity, concerns about outsourcing, legislative interference, and reconstitution of the UT Board of Trustees.
- Attended State of UT address in Nashville last month.
- Interviewed by Chronicles of Higher Education, WATE, WMOT (MTSU station), and WOKI News Talk radio with Representative Roger Kane.
- UCW Lobby Day tomorrow in Nashville. Buses will be taking both faculty and students.

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

- Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2016, is forthcoming for approval.
- Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2016, is forthcoming. (Information item)

#### **V. MINUTES OF THE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL** (R. Bennet)

- There were approximately 200 changes including general education and curriculum changes during the January 2016 Undergraduate Council meeting. The changes were projected on the large screen to share with senators. Changes are scheduled to take effect in the fall.
- The changes came in as a seconded motion from the Undergraduate Council. All senators voted in favor of the changes. There were none opposed. (<http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2015/11/UG-Council-Curriculum-Changes-Summary-1-26-16.pdf>)

#### **VI. MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL** (S. Kania)

- A brief overview of recent actions by the Graduate Council was provided ([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)). The minutes for the November 19, 2015, meeting has also been posted online.
- The general changes came in as a seconded motion from Graduate Council. All senators voted in favor of the changes. There were none opposed.
- The curriculum changes came in as a seconded motion from Graduate Council. All senators voted in favor of the changes. No one opposed.

#### **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** (B. Ownley)

- A second reading of the proposed bylaw changes was presented (<http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2015/11/Proposed-FS-Bylaws-changes-Graduate-and-Undergraduate-Council-meetings-and-reports.pdf>). There are rationales for these changes. They are: 1) To clarify the relationship between the Senate and the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils; 2) To specify that the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils

present their reports of council activities, rather than their meeting minutes for approval of the Faculty Senate; and 3) to specify that any curriculum change can be brought back up for review and implementation delayed by either the Executive Council or full Faculty Senate.

- The proposed changes to the bylaws for both the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils are also reflected in Section 2M of the document.
- There were no questions. B. MacLennan called for a vote. All were in favor of the changes. No one opposed.

## **VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, C. Cimino, provided an open Information UT Budget Forum for faculty, staff, and students on 2/15/2016 (<http://www.nimbios.org/~gross/Senate/BudgetForum2016.pptx>).
- Examined data over the last 25 years to see what the potential driving forces are for tuition increases (<http://www.nimbios.org/~gross/Senate/UTKTuitionandExpendituresReportFinal.pdf>). Legislator comments indicate that the increases are a result by high faculty pay increases. Results showed tuition increased by a factor of 6.5 while faculty salary increased by a factor of 2. There have been increases in expenditures, but this is not the driver. The only item that has risen faster is scholarships and fellowships. The driver for these increases is the decrease in state support.

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

- The committee has sent a survey about technology and she asks that everyone take time to complete it.

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

- Senate elections are currently underway. She has offered assist caucus chairs as needed.
- Currently taking nominations for the Faculty Senate President Elect and Secretary for next year.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### Student Government Association (B. Vanhooser)

- Bethany Vanhooser, Student Government Chief of Staff, and Will Freeman, Student Government President, presented information on Student Government activities.
- They recently went to Nashville for the State of the State address. Students had the opportunity to talk to legislators and tried to educate House and Senate officials about the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- A petition was launched at 1:00 pm today. After just a few hours they had 1,200 signatures. The goal is 4,000 and then they will deliver it.
- They plan to write letters to the senators on the Finance Committee first. They are currently communicating with students on the Martin and Chattanooga campuses.
- The media has been contacting students for interviews.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by B. MacLennan at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis L. Thompson, Secretary