

## **Proposal for Establishment of Ad Hoc Senate Diversity Committee**

The motion:

The UTK Faculty Senate shall establish an ad hoc committee to focus on diversity and inclusion issues affecting our faculty roles and the well-being of the University community, including students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus. The following is a (suggested) list of potential members of this committee:

Senate President Elect or designee as chair

3 at large Senators

Chairs or their designees of Faculty Affairs, Budget and Planning, Teaching and Learning, and University Faculty Council

Ex officio representatives are to be invited from from:

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

STRIDE

Commission For Black People

Commission for Women

Commission for LGBTQ People

SGA

The establishment of this committee will concretely indicate the Faculty Senate's high value on diversity and inclusion as relevant to higher education, and to the prerogatives of a research-intensive university. It would underscore our support for autonomy of the university in specifically making efforts and using resources in the service of improving diversity and inclusiveness of UTK. It will provide a forum for discussing the role of diversity and inclusion in the curriculum.

The charge of the ad hoc Diversity Committee is to proactively support diversity and inclusion at UTK, and to plan responses to legislative or other developments related to diversity and inclusion, and to decide over the rest of this academic year whether there should be a standing committee, that is, a Senate Diversity and Inclusion Council. If so, the committee would develop bylaws language to codify it.

(This motion is open to friendly amendment in the details provided.)

Joanne Hall