

FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
April 3, 2017

Absent: Stan Bowie, Barry Bruce, Qing Cao, Vincent Carilli, Jiangang Chen, Christopher Cherry, Chris Cimino, Mark Dean, David Dupper, Susan Edmundson, Islam El-Adaway, Mark Farley, Dan Flint, Jennifer Franklin, Alex Freire, Stephanie Galloway, Millie Gimmel, Holly Greene, Heather Hartman, Asafa Jalata, Sharon Jean-Philippe, Hyun Kim, Rebecca Koszalinski, Nicole Labbé, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Jacob Latham, Mary Leitnaker, Jeanie Lim, Tomás Martín-Jiménez, Laura Miller, Kevin Moulton, Shelley Newman, Catherine Remus, Greg Reynolds, Arthur Ruggles, John Schmisser, Vandana Singh, George Siopsis, Gary Smith, Kimberly Smith, Soren Sorensen, Dawnie Steadman, Jennifer Stokes, Maurice Stucke, Ahmad Vakili, Micheline Van Riemsdijk, Margarita Velandia, Brynn Voy, Stewart Waters, Brian Whitlock, James Williams, Shellen Wu*, Ling Zhao, Xiaopeng Zhao, Steven Zinkle

Present by Zoom: Spencer Olmstead, Cindy Raines

Alternates: Casey Sams for Shellen Wu

Guests: Don Bruce, John Currie, Beverly Davenport, Robert Nobles, Dixie Thompson

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

E. Bernard established a quorum.

II. CALL TO ORDER

B. Ownley called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

UTK Chancellor's Report (B. Davenport)

- B. Davenport recognized the Intellectual Freedom Forum at the UT College of Law featuring seven faculty who will discuss the history and future of intellectual freedom at UTK.
- The first Title IX Coordinators meeting in the SEC occurred on campus today. This has been an important way to learn about what is happening at other campuses and be more aware about how to make our campus safer. The Title IX Commission visited campus last week and will be issuing a report based on their findings.
- This week is Graduate & Professional Students Appreciation Week, and she thanked the graduate students for their contributions to the research mission of the University.
- The Chancellor reported attending her first Board of Trustee (BOT) meeting last week. Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct (COC) were approved. The revised COC will be sent to Joint Operations, Secretary of State, etc. for final approval. B. Davenport indicated that the best way to share our story is to have BOT members on campus.
- B. Davenport will be meeting with all commissions this week, and she has met with UT Diversity Matters 2-3 times since her arrival. She will continue to do so as plans for the Pride Center progress.
- The new freshman class is very academically talented, with a 27.6 mean ACT and a 3.87 mean GPA. Nothing impedes students' progress more than threats to safety; this will be a focus for her. J. Hall asked about an update on the Pride Center. B. Davenport and V.

Carilli will work together to propose a location for the Pride Center. The current space could be renovated; long-term plans for location will continue to be discussed. L. Gross asked about the President's search for the VP of Academic Affairs. The search committee does not include anyone with faculty status. Can this concern be expressed? B. Davenport responded that faculty should express this concern.

Provost's Report (J. Zomchick)

Three new academic programs were approved at the BOT meeting, and will be submitted for approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). They will be implemented in August if the Tennessee General Assembly approves the funding. J. Zomchick thanked faculty for reporting class attendance. Completion rate was 98.5%. Two years ago, there was an audit in the financial aid office and one finding was lack of attendance tracking. The fines for failure to track attendance could be millions; this is an important accomplishment.

President's Report (B. Ownley)

- B. Ownley presented an update on some of the proposed bills. HB0033/SB0030 (requires that the words "husband," "wife," "mother," and "father" be given their natural and ordinary meaning, without forced or subtle construction that would limit or extend the meaning of the language and that are based on the biological distinctions between men and women, except when a contrary intention is clearly manifest) has not been scheduled to be heard in committee. HB0888/SB0771 (requires students in public schools and public institutions of higher education to use restrooms and locker rooms that are assigned to persons of the same sex as that shown on the students' birth certificates) failed in Senate Education Committee. HB0892/SB0752 (enacts the "Tennessee Natural Marriage Defense Act," which states the policy of Tennessee to defend natural marriage between one man and one woman regardless of any court decision to the contrary) was deferred to 2018 in the House Civil Justice Subcommittee. HB0739/SB1165 (Tennessee Student Free Expression Act) is still an active bill. HB0738/SB0734 (requires efficiency audits to be performed for public systems of higher education and public institutions of higher education) is still active bill. An *amendment to the budget to create an Office of Intellectual Diversity* is active.
- M. Griffin and B. Ownley will attend the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) meeting later this week. A. Haynes will meet with the group and discuss how these bills will affect public universities. B. Ownley announced that the Commission for Blacks has sponsored several Trailblazer Awards, which have been very good events. The person being honored goes one on one with an interviewer. The next award will celebrate the arts, and will be held on April 25. Wardell Milan, a NY artist who went to Yale will come to tell his story and display some pieces. The ceremony will include a 45-60 minute interview in McClung.
- B. Ownley shared her impressions from the BOT meeting last week: The Student COC was very well received. The BOT is still unclear about what faculty do. Perception is that annual performance reviews are inflated. Part of the reason may be that the data may not be very robust. Many individuals retire or resign because they do not want to go through a cumulative performance review. There will need to be conversation about this. The Senate President of UTC invited the board members to follow her around on campus. She was a former tax attorney. B. Ownley and C. White also invited BOT members to shadow them.
- Two searches are underway: VC Communications/Marketing & VC Alumni Affairs and Development.

IV. MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

B. Lyons moved approval of the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2017; L. Gross seconded; minutes were unanimously approved. The Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2017, were presented as an information item.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Use of iThenticate on Dissertations and Theses (D. Thompson, R. Nobles)

D. Thompson stated that she appreciated those who came over for the reception for graduate students. The 3-minute thesis competition finals will be held on Friday, April 7, at 1:00 in Hollingsworth Auditorium. In 2016, there were over 200 allegations of plagiarism. More than 50 allegations have come forward since the start of 2017. These cases can come with severe consequences for all those associated. iThenticate software is the industry standard. Chemistry is using this for every thesis and dissertation. They also use it in some of their 600 level doctoral courses. D. Thompson demonstrated iThenticate including the review of a report, and uploading a paper. S. Murphy asked if the report was interactive. D. Thompson responded that a pdf can be generated that is not interactive, but the links may be active to click. L. Gross stated that he was not opposed to dealing with methods of stopping plagiarism, but was having difficulty using iThenticate. Staff may not have time to add this task, particularly from a budget standpoint. D. Thompson said that she was not aware of this complication. B. Lyons asked how pervasive is the problem across all graduate degrees? Would it be more prudent to first focus on the departments in which plagiarism is a problem? D. Thompson said that even one instance of plagiarism is enough to be problematic for the whole institution. L. Knox said that she teaches writing and international students, and plagiarism can be a product of a poor writing process. In addition, there is no funding for graduate writing. D. Thompson stated that this is something that the Graduate School intends to address. A question was asked about how iThenticate compares to SafeAssign and Unplag. R. Nobles stated that these software programs are student versions. They do not look across journals, and are more focused on web-based material. M. Black pointed out that the software does not include all books, but only those that are available digitally. In addition, it does not include languages other than English. D. Thompson responded that she is not certain of the exact number of books in iThenticate. L. Gross said that determining the threshold is an important issue. This is a sophisticated software program, but it will not be trivial for someone to use it. There needs to be more experience with this before we adopt it. One suggestion was that if students have to do their own assessment, they will have a vested interest in ensuring that their document is not plagiarized. The cost to expand our license for the software will be \$20-30K. S. Morris suggested that the Office of Research and Engagement, and the Office for Information Technology should both be consulted so that we are not paying for two different tools to do the same thing. R. Nobles indicated that Unplag is for student projects and not appropriate for theses, publications, and dissertations.

VI. REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

Task Force on Guns on Campus (B. MacLennan)

There are three important bills; HB0745/SB0975, as amended (HA0059), extends rights of part-time employees to carry weapons on campus. This will go before the Senate Education Committee on 4/4. HB1176/SB0339 lowers penalties for carrying a gun without a permit to \$25 from \$500. This will go before the Senate Judiciary Committee on 4/4 and the House Civil Justice Committee on 4/5. HB0508/SB0445 allows people to sue state organizations who place

restrictions on people from carrying guns in certain areas. Please reach out to legislators to express opposition to these bills.

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Athletics Committee (S. Hunter)

Faculty Athletics Representative Don Bruce explained his role as FAR, and introduced Athletic Director (AD) J. Currie to the faculty. D. Bruce indicated that academics, compliance, and budget will be the top priorities. J. Currie was the AD at Kansas State. J. Currie greeted the faculty. He will endeavor to stay connected with the faculty. The safety and wellbeing of student athletes is a top priority as is ensuring that UT is well-represented. A strategic plan will be developed soon and J. Currie wishes to promote two of the five principles that were in place at K. State: 1) providing value to the University and state, and 2) intentionality in ensuring transparency in athletics finances. B. Lyons stated that 1 year ago ESPN conducted an interview with a graduate of our football program regarding prayer at athletic events prior to games. This has been addressed for football. What about other athletic groups? J. Currie thanked him for raising the concern and will ensure that this issue is considered. L. Gross asked, "What is your prioritization of academic activities of athletes?" J. Currie indicated that TN is among the top five universities in the country with graduation of student athletes. He wishes to build a culture of student athletes who are job-oriented.

Research Council (Q. He for M. Van Riemsdijk)

- Council has a presentation scheduled on April 12 (3:30 pm to 5:00 pm) with Jim Kohlenberger, who will be giving a presentation on how the proposed federal budget could affect funding for research and scholarship.
- Bylaws Proposal changes – first reading. The changes of the bylaws are additions to clarify the process for selection of the new Council chair, and support provided by the Office of Research and Engagement for meeting minutes. These are presented as an attachment. M. Griffin asked whether the person who is elected by the council as the next chair of the RC is automatically named chair by the FS president-elect. The response was no, the vote taken by council will be conveyed to the president-elect who has the responsibility to appoint the council chair. B. MacLennan asked about the language regarding the second part. Should 'has agreed to provide' be changed to 'shall' or 'will provide staff'? This will be addressed at the next FSEC meeting.

Due to the lateness of the hour, B. Ownley indicated that she would entertain a motion to table additional committee reports until the next meeting. S. Morris moved suspension of other standing committee reports and the UFC report; B. Lyons seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The following reports were suspended until the next meeting.

Budget and Planning (L. Gross) tabled

- Faculty Salary Analysis Report – based on 10 years of data
- Outsourcing Forum scheduled for April 26, 3:30-5:00

Graduate Council (M. Roman) tabled

- Graduate Council Minutes of March 23, 2017 (UNAPPROVED; Information only)

Nominations and Appointments (B. Lyons) tabled

- Elections for 2017-2018

Undergraduate Council (K. Ambroziak) tabled

- Undergraduate Council Minutes of February 28, 2017
- Summary Report on Undergraduate Council Actions (for approval)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

University Faculty Council (UFC) Report (C. White, B. Ownley) tabled for next meeting.

Nominee Statements for Faculty Representative for University Faculty Council (B. Lyons)

An electronic ballot has been emailed to Senate members with written statements of P. Daves and B. MacLennan for a 3-year term to represent our campus on the system-wide UFC. Please cast a vote electronically before the end of the week.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

B. Ownley adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sadie Hutson, Faculty Senate Secretary