

Faculty Senate Executive Council
MINUTES
November 7, 2016

Present: Katherine Ambroziak, Steve Blackwell, Allie Brown, Chris Cimino, Jennifer Fowler, Holly Greene, Lou Gross, Denita Hadziabdic-Guerry, Joanne Hall, Sadie Hutson, Bruce MacLennan, Samantha Murphy, Shelley Newman, Bonnie Ownley, Rebecca Prosser, Robert Spirko, Micheline Van Riemsdijk, John Zomchick

Guests: J. Cheek

I. CALL TO ORDER

B. Ownley called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

Three candidates for the Chancellor's position have visited campus. J. Cheek encouraged quick feedback to the President. This will be reviewed closely. J. Cheek sent another note last week about the behaviors toward LGBTQ+ community on campus. There has been a good response to that note. Suggestions are continuing to be sent forward to the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force. L. Gross asked what is the status regarding transition planning? The transition committee will be chaired by C. Cimino. The group met last week and will continue to provide updates. L. Gross asked are Vice Chancellor searches on hold? Cheek said yes, many of the searches are on hold until a new Chancellor is hired. There is a dual reporting relationship for the Development and Alumni Affairs position. That position description has been sent to all the development officers. The position has not officially been posted, so that the new Chancellor can be involved in the decision of selecting that position. The Athletic Director position hire will likely not start until late in Spring.

Provost's Report (J. Zomchick)

EOCS – email went out last week. Faculty should work with OIRA to setup surveys. The four core questions that have been on SAIS in the past will be included one more time, but will then be retired. The Provost's office is beginning to work on how the new EOCS data will be integrated into T&P expectations/documents. An announcement was sent out in Tennessee Today regarding the minority scholarship program. The language was revised (see below).

President's Report (B. Ownley)

Attended a meeting with J. Rudolph, M. Scoggins, law and business faculty regarding a UTK free speech statement. Education pieces are important to consider in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom. A statement needs to be written by faculty and students and distributed before the next legislative session. C. White asked for background related to the context for this topic. B. Ownley indicated that this was important as a philosophic stance in order to prevent legislation from being forced upon us. J. Hall commented from the view of AAUP, there is opposition that would coerce silence on an issue. Their stance is about persuasion and behavior. B. Lyons said the civility statement is a good starting place. J. Rudolph will distribute the minutes from the meeting to B. Ownley. Once more information is gathered, B. Ownley will appoint a committee, including a call to the full Senate for volunteers

to work on this. There may also be another bathroom bill. Noma Anderson will be here this week at 10:45 Thursday or 3:45 Friday. B. Ownley will send a reminder.

Stride Training – there are no lists that are currently distributed to know who has undergone training. J. Hall asked if faculty are interested in doing Stride Training, how can this be done? Response: Visit the website-dates for training are listed and one can show up. There will be an initiative next AY that all individuals serving on search committees will need to undergo Stride Training. B. Ownley stated that J. Cheek agreed that administrators also need to undergo training as well.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of October 5, 2016 – L. Gross made motion, B. Lyons seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update – Criteria for Minority Scholarships for Engineering (B. Ownley) [See attachment]

The laws do not allow any project at the University to limit participation to any groups. They must be open. As a result, although you may have criteria for participation based on several different things, the opportunity must be open to everyone. The revised criteria are as follows:

- A recipient must be classified as a first-time entering student at UT Knoxville for Fall 2017
- A recipient must be admitted to and enrolled full-time (12+ credit hours) in a degree program in the Tickle College of Engineering or Biosystems Engineering in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- A recipient may be classified as an in-state or out-of-state student
- A recipient may be of any race or gender
- For purposes of this scholarship program, the term “minority” will be defined consistently with the UTK Vol Vision 2020 strategic plan

Update – Guns on Campus (B. MacLennan, B. Ownley)

M. Griffin, S. Hutson, and C. Myers have agreed to serve on a workgroup on this issue. Two events coming up. 1) Nov 15, 6:30, UT Diversity Town Hall, Alumni Memorial Building, Room 32. Bruce will be speaking along with a panel. He will talk about the faculty survey results from last year. Staff and students must also be surveyed. B. Ownley will explore how a staff survey can be done. 2) The Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense group is having a policy briefing on Monday, November 28 at noon. It will be focused on the history of gun legislation at Universities.

Update – EPPR (comments received) (S. Hutson)

Handout with comments was distributed. UTIA and UTK were examining a promotion program for full professors. A few years ago, UTIA was not in favor of such a program. L. Gross asked a question about awards. How are the awards divided up in Colleges/departments/units re: criteria for chairs, professorships, awards, etc.? This ties in with gender equity. Provost Zomchick will examine this and report back. UTHSC is coming up with a resolution for consideration regarding the new EPPR policy. S. Blackwell said the University System Relations committee will examine these comments, but it is unclear how this needs to be addressed. UTK will also be setting up an annual reporting system for non-tenure-track faculty.

Update – Safe Zone Training (B. Ownley)

Friday, 3:00-6:00 p.m. HSS, 123. Focus will be on faculty attendance.

V. REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion (B. Lyons)

Task force will be meeting on 11/14. There is agreement to develop a charrette. B. Ambroziak from Architecture and Design will be helping to lead this for a new Pride Center. The committee will also review a draft of bylaws to become a standing senate committee.

Free Speech Forum – Free speech forum went well and was attended by several administrators.

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Appeals Committee (R. Prosser)

No report.

Athletics Committee (S. Hunter)

Visit from Benjamin Nam, a doctoral student who came to talk about a program where athletes come to the U.S. for a year. There are concerns about academic rights of athletes (email for report).

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (S. Newman)

There is going to be a survey about 9-month faculty benefits. It will be distributed by email.

Budget & Planning Committee (L. Gross)

No report.

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

Email pointing out implicit bias in *Faculty Evaluation Manual*. Email from M. Theriot – as EPPR goes into *Faculty Handbook*, there will be some language discussions.

Graduate Council (M. Roman)

- i. Minutes of September 29, 2016, are available on the website:
http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gcminutes/88/
- ii. Presentation by R. Zaretzki on PhD program in Data Science and Engineering:
<http://senate.utdev3.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2016/08/DSE-proposal-V6.pdf>. Program will function similarly to Energy Science PhD program. Focus will be on health and biological science, data science, environmental/climate science, materials science, urban systems science, transportation science, national security, and advanced manufacturing. Many of the students are working with faculty at ORNL. ORNL based faculty become joint faculty with Energy Science and Engineering. Will try to enroll about 10 students the first year, then 25/year thereafter. The Graduate Council has approved the program. There is also a proposal going forward to THEC. L. Gross said that the current program has 45 students who are supported at UT. Who is funding the UT students? R. Zaretzki said that all are funded on grants. This will continue with the new program. The Bredesen Center covers the first year, then the students are supported by grants/contracts thereafter. L. Gross asked with regard to approving a program, what is the process by which these are vetted? The Bredesen Center is getting tuition back. There seems to be an equity issue, as this isn't done universally on

campus. Response was any faculty can become involved and become a Bredesen Center faculty. An answer to the question will be explored by the Provost's office.

Library and Information Technology Committee (H. Greene)

No report.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (B. Ownley, B. Lyons)

N & A Committee is seeking President-Elect nominees.

Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (A. Brown, D. Hadziabdic-Guerry)

No report.

Research Council (M. Van Riemsdijk)

Two Reviews – The Research Council met on October 12, 2016. Two committees reported on their activities: The Centers Review committee reviewed the National Institute for STEM Evaluation and Research, and the SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure committee was reviewing applications. Robert Nobles discussed improvements in the IMedRIS submission system for the Institutional Review Board. He mentioned that process improvements have been made including notifying faculty when the application is not submitted and when documents are missing, hiring more staff, and making the online system more transparent. Jean Mercer presented the new reporting options in Cayuse, the electronic routing and approval of research proposals. The Office of Sponsored Programs has requested from the company to create a user interface that allows colleges and departments to create more specific reports of project PIs. The new interface is expected to be available by January 2017.

Teaching & Learning Council (S. Murphy, P. Rutenberg)

Call for nominations for teaching and advising awards are now available. S. Murphy will send B. Ownley a statement to forward on faculty info.

Undergraduate Council (K. Ambroziak)

Minutes from October 18, 2016 can be reviewed on the website:

http://web.utk.edu/~ugcouncil/public_html/docs/minutes/10-18-2016_UGCminutes.pdf T. Gill presented a brief overview of the proposed Peace Corps Prep Program, which is designed to encourage service and global/intercultural engagement and to give our students an advantage when applying to the US Peace Corps. The program would incorporate courses the university currently offers. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of completion from the US Peace Corps. K. Benson presented the General Education Committee's report, which included items that did not require action by the UGC, as well as the proposal that Classics 254 and 255 be approved as satisfying the Arts and Humanities general education requirement. These two new courses were submitted simultaneously to the College of Arts and Sciences and to the General Education Committee. The UGC voted to approve these courses pending approval by A&S. Text to be added to the Undergraduate Council Curriculum Committee Operating Guidelines to establish the function and structure of the Experiential Learning subcommittees was reviewed, discussed, and revised. The revised text was approved without opposition.

University System Relations Committee (S. Blackwell)

No report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Calendar for 2017-2018 (B. Lyons)

Calendar can be found at: <http://senate.utdev3.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2016/08/2017-2018-Senate-Calendar.pdf>. Discussion ensued about when the Faculty Senate retreat should be held. B. Lyons will explore further.

Potential change in Health Insurance Status for GAs, GTAs, GRAs (B. Ownley). U.S. Labor Department was considering that these students be considered as employees and pay health insurance premiums similar to employees. This is currently on hold.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by B. Ownley at 5:02 p.m.