

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
March 6, 2017

Absent: Monica Black, Stan Bowie, Marianne Breinig, Barry Bruce, David Butler, Chris Cimino, Mark Dean, Susan Edmundson, Mark Farley, Dan Flint, Alex Freire, Stephanie Galloway, Martin Griffin, Denita Hadziabdic-Guerry, Heather Hartman, Qiang He, Amy Hodshon, Asafa Jalata, Juan Jurat-Fuentes, Gregor Kalas, Nicole Labbe, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Mary Leitnaker, Judy Li, Chris Magra, Tomás Martín-Jiménez, Crystal McAlvin, Lisa Mullikin, Shelley Newman, Spencer Olmstead, Gina Owens, Arthur Ruggles, John Schmisser, Vandana Singh, George Siopsis, Gary Smith, Kimberly Smith, Soren Sorensen, Jennifer Stokes, Kris Tobin, Ahmad Vakili, Micheline Van Riemsdijk, Margarita Velandia, Brynn Voy, Forbes Walker, Stewart Waters, Shellen Wu, Xiaopeng Zhao, Steven Zinkle

Present by Zoom: C. Raines

Alternates: Casey Sams for Shellen Wu

Guests: B. Davenport, B. Smith, B. Vanhooser

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM (E. Bernard)

A quorum was established.

II. CALL TO ORDER

B. Ownley called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

UTK Chancellor's Report (B. Davenport)

B. Davenport met with UT Diversity Coalition students. She also spoke to state representatives and will travel to Nashville this week to address the proposed budget amendment. Recently, she met with T. Eighmy and discussed various partnerships. B. Lyons noted that some of the proposed bills reflected legislative overreach. Does the threat of compromising our own institutional accreditation offer any form of rebuttal? B. Davenport indicated that UT would not compromise our institutional accreditation. L. Gross—a direct report to the Chancellor was fired when the Office of Diversity was defunded. Could you outline the processes you might go through in the next few months regarding decisions about the reporting of diversity on campus through the Chancellor's office? B. Davenport stated that there are three more Vice Chancellors to hire and the reporting structure is not yet laid out, but she indicated that it would reflect a commitment to the principles by which she intends to lead. The Chancellor reported she will ensure that the organizations, the centers, and the places where students gather and are served will remain. Student life on all campuses where she has worked previously has been well integrated.

Provost's Report (J. Zomchick)

Three new programs: 1) Supply chain management; 2) PhD in Data Science- Bredesen Center; 3) BA in Sustainability in Geography. There has been a request to record attendance. The Provost's office realizes that there is some burden on the faculty to comply with this, but it is important for us to record attendance. In a federal audit, we only had attendance information

for 40% of our students, which makes us liable to hefty penalties. There is an Executive Order on travel. The Provost's office is watching this closely; a revised order was released this morning. New updates will be provided to the campus when they become available. The new EO seems to be somewhat less restrictive than the first. More information is pending. Premium or expedited processing of H1B visas will be suspended starting April 3, starting up to six months. This information was released on 3/4/17. In the past, if one paid a fee, expedited processing was allowed within 15 days. This suspension will elongate the process to 6-8 months. This will affect faculty and post-docs who are hired on these visas. L. Gross stated that in search committees, our job is to offer positions to individuals who are qualified regardless of visa status, and he asked if this was correct. J. Zomchick responded that it was correct.

President's Report (B. Ownley)

Several introduced bills would affect the university community.

HB0033- As introduced, 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.

SB077- As introduced, 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.

SB739- Designed to protect freedom of speech on college campuses.

SB752- As introduced, 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.

UT Advocacy is watching all of the bills that will affect higher education.

IV. MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

G. Kaplan moved to approve the Faculty Senate meeting minutes of February 6, 2017; S. Murphy seconded; minutes were unanimously approved.

The Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting minutes of January 23, 2017, were included as an information item.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Report by the Pride Center Working Group (M. McAlpin and W. Bach)

The group first convened last August after defunding. They engaged with many constituencies on campus, and researched 29 peer and aspirational institutions to understand what they did to be responsive to the LGBTQ+ community. The Pride Center Report (distributed with agenda) was compiled to outline how the peer/aspirational institutions responded to the survey and proposes new programming, strong affiliations with academic programs, appropriate staffing recommendations, and a budget to support the formation of an institutionally supported Pride Center. Chancellor Davenport was given this report on her first day and invited members of the working group to discuss the report. Previously, the Pride Center had an operating budget of \$4000 per year in addition to a 25% faculty position (D. Braquet). The Pride Center is open, but is being run on a volunteer basis. The goal is to have this up and functioning in the fall

including a Staff Director. M. Gimmel asked if the proposed budget included state monies to fund the staffing; W. Bach replied yes.

Resolution to Support Establishment of a Pride Center

The resolution comes from the Executive Council of Faculty Senate. The resolution was discussed and suggestions for improvement were made. B. MacLennan moved approval as amended and K. Pringle seconded. The final resolution is as follows:

Resolution to Support Establishment of a Pride Center

We, the UTK Faculty Senate, pass this resolution in support of an institutionally supported, funded, and staffed Pride Center.

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville has added Diversity and Inclusion as a 6th strategic priority to its Vol Vision 2020; and

WHEREAS, twenty-nine (29) of UTK's target peers have institutionally supported LGBTQ+ Centers, including Texas A&M University, Indiana University, University of Georgia, Michigan State University, Purdue University, Rutgers University, University of Cincinnati, and University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, UTK has fallen behind peer and aspirational peer institutions with respect to institutional support for a university Pride Center; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UTK Faculty Senate fully supports the recommendations given in the January 20, 2017 report of the Pride Center Working Group.

The resolution was unanimously approved as amended.

VI. REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion (B. Lyons)

Proposed Bylaws Changes – Final Reading

This comes forward from the Executive Council. L. Gross indicated that of the six outlined goals of Vol Vision 2020, this establishes a committee that aligns with the goals just as there is for each of the other five outlined goals. The motion comes forward from the EC. The motion was approved unanimously.

Task Force on Guns on Campus (B. MacLennan)

Ashley Maynor helped to develop an infographic, which has been sent to constituencies in the university. This issue changes daily. One pressing concern is SB0975/HB0745, which was intended to allow part-time security guards to carry a handgun with a permit. This has been amended to allow any part-time employee to carry a handgun. This bill goes to the senate judicial committee on March 4, 2017. Phone calls are typically more effective than emails. Sign up for UT Advocacy, Every Town for Gun Safety (educators@momsdemandaction.org). Faculty members are encouraged to speak as individuals. Ashley is willing to speak to any campus group. S. Hutson suggested that anyone could create a login for the Tennessee General Assembly, and use "My Bills" to allow tracking of changes to bills. The update on Proposed Legislation and Information Graphic is available ([click here](#)).

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Fowler)

- There are two items for discussion: Teaching Evaluation Summary for Inclusion in the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* and Removal of Gender Bias Statements from the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation*. These items come forward as motions from the Executive Council. The recommended changes in both items were approved unanimously.

Graduate Council (M. Roman)

- Graduate Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2016, were approved February 2, 2017.
 - Graduate Certificate policies. Twelve hours are now required, only nine of which are included in the major/dept.
 - Academic Appeals Committee. Three of four academic appeals were upheld; one was elevated to a higher level.
 - Credentials Committee. All but one was approved without issue; one had a query that was sent back to the department.
 - Curriculum Committee. New policy regarding courses not taught in four or more years: all of these were dropped except two. The committee recommended that these two be given an extension, as there are new faculty to teach them, as well as increased interest and students in the pipeline. One of these courses was in Arts & Sciences and one was in Education, Health, and Human Sciences.
 - Student Faculty Research Awards: 67 applied, decisions came out in Dec.
 - Upcoming: Professional Students week: April 3.
- Graduate Council Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2017:
 - Academic Policy Committee. The Senior Eligible for Graduate Credit Policy was changed to allow up to 18 hours combined total for undergraduate and graduate course work for fall and spring semester, and 12 hours combined total for summer semester. In addition, under special circumstances and with departmental approval, 600-level courses may be taken by undergraduate students for graduate credit. Statements were added to the Graduate Catalog to clarify the use of 400-level courses for graduate credit and to define graduate minors.
 - Vols Online (Distance Ed Students and Tracking). The Admissions office is working with J. Gramling to identify DE students for reporting purposes.
 - Use of iThenticate on Dissertations and Theses — This will be voted upon and discussed at the next meeting of the Graduate Council.
 - G. Kaplan moved to approve the report, M. Gimmel seconded. The report on the minutes of February 2, 2017, were unanimously approved.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (B. Lyons)

Elections for 2017-2018. Many caucuses have concluded their elections. Two important positions are open: one for faculty senate president-elect and campus representative for the University Faculty Council. Please self-nominate or nominate someone by March 20 by contacting B Lyons.

Teaching and Learning Council (P. Rutenberg and S. Murphy)

The committee has finished work on the Chancellor's awards for teaching and advising. There were 42 nominations for the teaching award, and 22 nominations for the advising and

mentoring award. All recommendations for the awards have been approved by the Chancellor's Office.

Undergraduate Council (K. Ambroziak)

Undergraduate Council minutes of January 31, 2017. Summary of actions are on the first three pages of the January 31, 2017, minutes. There was an amended motion for approval of the Undergraduate Council Report. K. Ambroziak reviewed the summary of actions. The EC approved the report with an amendment to remove the Peace Corps section. S. Murphy moved approval as amended; S. Blackwell seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Student Code of Conduct (V. Carilli)

Revised Student Code of Conduct ([click here](#))

Bulleted List of Changes ([click here](#))

PowerPoint Presentation on Revision ([click here](#))

Process Overview ([click here](#))

The Student Code of Conduct (SCC) has been in revision for three years. It has been in existence for about 40 years without any substantive changes. J. Cheek asked V. Carilli and staff to update it. At the October 2015 meeting of the BOT, the SCC was unanimously endorsed. However, several changes have occurred since then. The philosophy has been to make the new SCC user-friendly for students. The proposed changes were presented by B. Smith and B. Vanhooser (attached PowerPoint). These changes will be proposed to the BOT at the end of March. L. Gross noted that the SECS may delegate authority in section 2.4. Why does it say may and not shall? The response was that this is similar to sexual misconduct whereby the investigation may be delegated to another office.

A resolution was proposed to support the revised SCC:

The University of Tennessee Knoxville Faculty Senate Resolution on the Revised Student Code of Conduct

Whereas, the current Student Code of Conduct is antiquated, convoluted, difficult to understand, and lacks details regarding process and certain sanctions; and
Whereas, the current Student Code of Conduct requires changes in the composition of the Sexual Misconduct board, due to the Jane Doe Settlement Agreement; and
Whereas, the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct include a more clearly stated philosophy of conduct that affirms a developmental and educational process, not just one that is punitive; and
Whereas, the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct include one uniform Board composed of Students, Faculty, and Staff (Student Conduct Board), with specific exceptions for cases involving sexual misconduct and research misconduct, which enables cases to be treated equitably and uniformly; and
Whereas, the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct have gone through an extensive, thorough drafting, research, and vetting process, whereby stakeholders across the university community have offered input and brought about positive improvements and consensus; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the University of Tennessee Knoxville Faculty Senate fully supports the proposed Student Code of Conduct and recommends the adoption of the code to the Board of Trustees.

L. Gross moved for approval of the resolution; J. Fowler seconded; the resolution was unanimously approved.

SGA Resolution on University of Chicago Free Speech Principles (C. Hollingsworth)
Suspended until next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

B. Ownley adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sadie Hutson, Faculty Senate Secretary