

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
November 21, 2016

Absent: Brian Ambroziak, Monica Black, Stan Bowie, Barry Bruce, Qing Cao, Vincent Carilli, Christopher Cherry, Chris Cimino, Harry Dahms, Mark Farley, Dan Flint, Jennifer Fowler, Stephanie Galloway, Denita Hadziabdic-Guerry, Heather Hartman, Qiang He, Amy Hodshon, Sadie Hutson, Asafa Jalata, Sharon Jean-Philippe, Gregor Kalas, Gregory Kaplan, Hyun Kim, Lt. Col. Brian Lancaster, Jacob Latham, Mary Leitnaker, Chris Magra, Crystal McAlvin, Laura Miller, Lisa Mullikin, Catherine Remus, Joe Scogin, Vandana Singh, George Siopsis, Gary Smith, Rob Spirko, Cary Staples*, Maurice Stucke, Kris Tobin, Pedro Tomas, Ahmad Vakili, Stewart Waters, Brian Whitlock, Shellen Wu*, Xiaopeng Zhao

Present by Zoom: John Schmisser, Margarita Velandia, Cindy Raines

*Alternates: Hillary Herndon for Cary Staples, Casey Sams for Shellen Wu, Michael Kent for Sally McMillan

Guests: Anthony Hanes, Lee Riedinger

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

E. Bernard established a quorum

II. CALL TO ORDER

B. Ownley called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

B. Ownley requested to add two resolutions to the agenda: 1) to introduce a resolution from TUFS, and 2) to Honor the service for Chancellor J. Cheek. L. Gross moved to approve. B. Lyons seconded the motion and there were no objections to add items to the agenda.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update (A. Haynes)

Anthony Haynes, Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy, reported the newly and reelected members of the recent election will likely perceive their wins as an approval of their platforms and a mandate from the public to do more of the same. He explained there are a few new variables affecting Tennessee politics like never before. These variables include social media and out of state organizations using out of state money to push for their own agendas. These new dynamics have created a need for the university to once again evaluate and prioritize what issues are important (e.g. diversity, academic freedom, guns on campus). He emphasized the need to be smart as earlier political strategies such as using emotion to try to motivate public participation no longer works. This means there is a need to figure out how to get work done without becoming antagonizing or appalled. A. Haynes asked the Faculty Senate to talk to their colleagues/constituents to generate ideas for what we can do to get people to come out and participate. He also stated there is a need for researchers to test strategies with the public, political leaders, and business leaders. B. Lyons asked about looking at advocacy strategies other states such as North Carolina (i.e. anti-transgender bathroom bill) or Georgia (i.e. guns on campus) have used as a road map for Advocacy. A. Haynes responded

that if the university does not want guns on campus it is going to take a logical strategy that involves parents.

B. Lyons asked about best strategies for addressing areas concerning diversity if using corporations' demand for diverse graduates did not work in the last legislative session. A. Haynes stated that diversity is currently interwoven throughout everything that we do at the university. He suggested an option on focusing more on interweaving a culture of diversity throughout the campus and not necessarily getting hung-up on bricks and mortar. In response to a question from L. Gross, A. Hayes stated that even though we do not know what President-elect Trump's administration is going to do, the Congress has shared their policies. The Senate is a little more up in the air and is considering topics such as fuel and national security. We probably will not know what it will be like for Higher Ed until March 2017. A. Hayes again asked for the Faculty Senate's help with ideas, creativity, patience, perseverance, and outcomes and noted that messages need to be retooled based on current problems and what is evolving. He noted this about appealing to people and building faith with them. He remains optimistic and emphasized he wants to work with the Faculty Senate like never before. He is passionate about the idea that one faculty makes a difference.

Proposed Calendar for 2017-2018 (B. Lyons)

Need to vote on approval for the Faculty Senate schedule for next year. Senate Retreat is scheduled for August 25, 2017. Once approved, locations will be reserved. This is an action item. There were no questions. B. Ownley called for a vote and the resolution was unanimously approved.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

B. Ownley presented a resolution in honor of Chancellor J. Cheek:

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Faculty Senate

A RESOLUTION to honor Chancellor Jimmy Cheek for his significant and lasting contributions to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

WHEREAS, Chancellor Jimmy Cheek has served the University of Tennessee with distinction as Chancellor of the Knoxville campus since 2009; and

WHEREAS, He has championed the development of the university's strategic plan, Vol Vision, with the ultimate goal of helping the University of Tennessee, Knoxville become one of the top 25 public research universities in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, He has made great efforts to improve the undergraduate academic experience, which has led to a significant increase in graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, He has supported the recruitment of excellent graduate students through providing stipend premiums and securing funding for the Bredesen Center's PhD program in Energy Science and Engineering; and

WHEREAS, He has worked tirelessly to strengthen the capacity and productivity of faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity and through his support of the Governor’s Chair program; and

WHEREAS, He has demonstrated a commitment to attract and retain excellent faculty and staff, and by allocating to the Knoxville campus merit raises for six consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, He has recognized that diversity and inclusion fosters excellence, which led him to create the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and appoint the first Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, He has promoted principles of civility and inclusion for everyone, regardless of family background, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression, and admonished that we celebrate what makes each of us unique and help each other reach our greatest potential; and

WHEREAS, He has successfully advocated for the campus with the UT System Office and the State of Tennessee to garner resources that have transformed the physical infrastructure on the Knoxville campus, and will result in \$1 billion in campus buildings and improvements to enhance the educational experience of students and the research capacity of the institution; and

WHEREAS, He has supported the principles of shared governance by his active and collaborative engagement with the UTK Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Council;

RESOLVED, That The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) Faculty Senate, honors the service of Chancellor Cheek and thanks him for his myriad contributions to the university; and expresses their sincere appreciation to him for his service as the chief executive officer of UTK; and welcomes him to the faculty.

This the 21st day of November 2016

Bonnie H. Ownley
President

Bruce J. MacLennan
Immediate Past President

Chancellor’s Report (J. Cheek)
Deferred until February due to time.

Provost’s Report (J. Zomchick)
No report. C. White requested an update regarding the Chancellor’s position. An announcement had just been published announcing that Beverly Davenport has been named as the next UT Knoxville Chancellor. Chancellor Cheek thanked everyone for his or her involvement and the great work that went into this effort.

President’s Report (B. Ownley)
Facilitators and Barriers to Promotion. A survey was recently sent to associate professors in order to be able to examine their experiences of moving from the assistant to associate

professor level, and from associate to full professor at UTK. The hope is to identify ways to strengthen the support provided to mid-career faculty members. There are four persons on this project: J. Fairbrother, A. Kramer, C. Myers, and B. Ownley.

Women's March. Work is currently underway to organize a student-led Women's march on January 21, 2017, in conjunction with the march in Washington. More about this event is to come.

Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS). Resolution on Carrying on Campus - B. Ownley stated that TUFS currently represents ~10,000 faculty across Tennessee and is not associated with a particular university. Currently M. Griffin is serving as UTK's elected representative and B. Ownley serves as the Faculty Senate President. There is a plan to begin a writing campaign and some other advocacy activities to keep guns off campus in order to prevent violence (e.g. shootings, suicide, accidental firing). A question was asked about the current campus Chief's thoughts, and B. Ownley said that Chief Lane has stated that it is not a good idea for students to have guns on campus. TUFS is requesting an up or down vote on the following resolution:

Proposed resolution—Guns on Campus for Students

WHEREAS, the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), which represents over 10,000 faculty at ten public universities, supports the position of campus law enforcement and safety officials that allowing students to have guns on campus will increase the incidence of events of violence, and

WHEREAS, allowing students to have guns on campus will foster a hostile work environment for faculty, staff, and students employed on campus,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the membership of TUFS strongly opposes any legislation that will allow students to have guns on campus.

During the discussion phase, M. Griffin stated that TUFS does not take any philosophical or political stance on the second amendment and that this resolution is based solely on safety, which is a non-partisan matter. He expressed he is happy to engage in discussion with others and answer questions. B. Ownley reinforced that this resolution is based on safety only. J. Hall stated that supporting the resolution would make a statement to join with TUFS and it would be good if we can do a collective action, though she does not agree with all of the wording in the document.

B. Ownley called for a vote. M. Griffin moved to approve the resolution as read into the minutes. The motion was seconded and the resolution was unanimously approved.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a correction to the October 17, 2016, Faculty Senate Meeting minutes. The correction is for an addition to the Undergraduate Council report.

- Under VII. Reports of Standing Committees, for Undergraduate Council, please add the following sentences after the third bullet: *There was a motion to approve the report on the Undergraduate Council meeting minutes of September 13. The motion was seconded and the report was approved.*

S. Murphy moved to approve the correction; L. Gross seconded. There were no objections.

L. Gross moved to approve the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2016, and B. MacLennan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the correction.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Criteria for Minority Scholarships in Engineering (L. Gross, B. Ownley)

L. Gross explained that when the legislature removed funding from Diversity and Inclusion and transferred the funds to engineering, there was no explanation or criteria for how the money would be used. Subsequently a meeting was held to discuss criteria. Decisions were made to include the term "minority" which will be defined by—and consistent with—the university's strategic plan, Vol Vision 20/20. He thanked the administration for their work. The criteria for the scholarships are located here: <http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2016/08/Diversity-Engineering-Scholarship-Program-FINAL.pdf>.

VII. REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion (B. Lyons)

Safe Zone Training. Last year under the leadership of Professor Donna Braquet and with the support of a graduate assistant, Safe Zone Training was provided to over 600 people. This semester UT Diversity Matters has conducted two training sessions, serving fewer than 80 people. The UT Diversity Matters sessions have value as a way of providing some access to comprehensive intersectional training that addresses gender-neutral pronouns. Making our campus safe for all is a first priority. We also hope the campus, with non-state funds, will be able to renew comprehensive university sponsored Safe Zone training with new campus leadership.

Pride Flag Display. In response to issues related to the display of flags at the UT Pride Center, the Task Force has received a "green light" from the Chancellor to conduct a charrette to design a flag display system for the UT Pride Center. To be facilitated by Architecture Professor Brian Ambroziak, the goal is to design a freestanding system to proudly display LGBTQIA+ flags that can be installed adjacent to the UT Pride Center. The project is contingent on participation by the UT Pride Center and the Pride Ambassadors.

Task Force on Campus Carry (B. MacLennan)

Making campus safe for everyone is a matter of concern for all of us. B. MacLennan reported that the Division of Student Life Diversity Committee hosted a Town Hall on Campus Concealed Carry. Panelists were the following: UTPD Chief Troy Lane, Bruce MacLennan representing the Faculty Senate, a representative from Moms Demand Action Against Gun Violence (MDAAGV), and an undergraduate student member of Students for Campus Carry. Panelists answered questions and participated in discussion. There is currently a five-member ad hoc committee formed that will be working on a plan that involves trying to get parents of students involved. MDAAGV was involved with defeating bills regarding gun carrying on campus in Georgia. B. Ownley added that on November 28, 2016, Mom's Demand Action Against Gun Violence will hold a policy briefing.

Task Force on Free Speech (B. Ownley)

B. Lyons, representing the Free Speech and Diversity Forum reported that the Task Force

organized a Free Speech and Diversity Forum on October 31st. The forum was well attended by several campus administrators, faculty, and students. Extra copies of the program are provided. We hope this will be the first of several campus-sponsored forums addressing this important topic. B. Ownley added that the task force wants to hold more events involving education and dialogues this spring. She noted that there is a need for faculty to work with students to create a Free Speech statement and she extended an invitation for others to join in this process.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Benefits and Professional Development Committee (S. Newman)

A survey has been created and the committee is pulling HR information to go with it. The plan is to send surveys out soon and then evaluate the data that is returned.

Graduate Council (M. Roman)

B. Lyons motioned to approve the report on the [August 25, 2017, Graduate School Council minutes](#). M. Gimmel seconded the motion, and the report was unanimously approved.

B. MacLennan motioned to approve the [report](#) on the [September 29, 2017, Graduate School Council minutes](#). L. Gross seconded. The report was unanimously approved.

L. Riedinger presented a proposal for a [PhD in Data Science and Engineering Program](#). Following L. Riedinger's proposal, B. Ownley opened the floor for discussion. B. Voy asked for clarification about what the term "big" data. B. Lyons asked for clarification regarding the reliance for monetary commitment from the state. L. Riedinger stated that he does not have commitment from the state yet, but they would be moving forward to accept students for fall 2017. If however, the state does not commit by March 10, 2017, no offers would be made to potential students. S. Murphy asked if it would be made clear to students that there may not be funding for this program, L. Riedinger replied, "Yes," they will be inviting potential students in February for information and will be upfront in the application process by telling them this program is not yet funded. L. Gross noted that he is going to vote against the proposal because there is a unique tuition kickback that is unprecedented. B. Ownley noted that the Graduate Council has approved the program.

A motion was made to approve a [PhD program in Data Science and Engineering](#). S. Sorenson seconded the motion. B. Ownley called for a vote. One person opposed, the majority voted to approve. The PhD program in Data Science and Engineering passed.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (B. Lyons)

B. Lyons called attention to Article II of the Faculty Senate Bylaws on Senate representation, noting that apportionment of open seats will take place in January, when caucus chairs recruit candidates to run for these seats. He said that he is available to all caucus chairs should they need any assistance with this process.

Research Council (M. Van Riemsdijk)

Dr. Robert Nobles, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement (ORE) recently gave a presentation on a research misconduct policy that is now in place for procedural handling of reports of misconduct. Additional staff members have been hired to help meet the needs of the university. There are still some issues with the IMedRIS system that they addressing.

Undergraduate Council (K. Ambroziak)

B. Lyons motioned to approve the [report](#) for the [October 18, 2016, Undergraduate Council meeting minutes](#). M. Griffin seconded the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

IX. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Hall announced that the Executive Board of AAUP will be holding some spring events. They hope to organize all constituents. An event will be held on February 9, 2016, at 3:30 pm and consist of a round table open discussion framework in order to address where we go from here with diversity and inclusion. She noted her disappointment about not hearing anything at today's meeting about the future about the Pride Center and diversity and inclusion.

X. ADJOURNMENT

B. Ownley adjourned the meeting at 5:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis L. Thompson