

Faculty Senate University System Relations Committee
October 30, 2017

Present: Misty Anderson, Chis Boyer, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Beauvais Lyons, Sally McMillan, and Gary Skolits

Absent: Martin Griffin, Husheng Li, Andrea Ludwig, Bruce MacLennan

Guest: Tonja Johnson, UT Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer

1. Review minutes of the September 29 meeting.
No revisions recommended, but there was brief clarification of the role of the committee on issues such as early and expedited tenure. Lyons noted that business comes to the full senate through committees and if there is future action on issues related to the board and/or system issues such as these, such actions could likely be directed through the USRC. Thus, it is important to stay current on issues such as these.
2. Executive and Compensation Committee Meeting
Boyer briefly reported on his attendance at the meeting. He noted that it was a video meeting and consisted primarily of voting up or down on issues. He noted that he and a Knoxville News Sentinel reporter were the only non-board members in attendance. The KNS report on the committee is at:
<http://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/education/2017/10/05/university-tennessee-leaders-wouldnt-get-partial-credit-goals-proposed-bonus-payment-plan/731253001/>
3. Upcoming board meeting
Lyons and MacLennan will both attend on behalf of the senate. No need for other committee members to attend, but the meetings are open if any committee members wish to attend.
4. Discussion with Tonja Johnson, UT Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
Johnson introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her role in the system office. She is currently still on an LDA assignment in the EVP/COO role. She was hired at UT to work on communications and marketing, but transitioned to the current role to help the president manage his broad span of responsibility. Several offices report through her. She encouraged us to meet with those VPs as well as others. Linda Martin will begin as VP of Academic Affairs and Student Success on November 1. Johnson that a new committee has been formed to review academic program effectiveness. The board is evidently enamored with dashboards that UTC was able to produce in conjunction with EAB. The committee expressed multiple concerns about measures of performance at the system level. Johnson urged the committee to talk with VP Hengstler about these issues. Johnson reiterated multiple times that she sees the role of the system as removing barriers, provision operational assistance, and advocating on behalf of

campuses. She also said that part of the role of the system office is to help establish boundaries for the board of trustees. She said that it is important for the system to “be its on brand” separate from any of the campus brands. She noted the importance of clarifying the role of system/campus HR and said this work is ongoing as a result of VP Harig’s upcoming retirement.

5. Establishing a time for future meetings

Noted that Hengstler and Lane have confirmed availability for November 13 at 1 p.m. Members who were present said they could attend a meeting at that time. At least one of the absent members teaches at that time. We may need to consider Friday mornings as a time for future meetings. We also discussed inviting Denise Gardner to the November 13 meeting to help with clarifying the campus and system roles on data reporting.