

Faculty Senate University System Relations Committee
December 11, 2017

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

Absent: Martin Griffin, Husheng Li

Guest: Anthony Haynes, Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy

1. Approve minutes of last meeting
Lyons moved and Skolits second to approve as distributed. Unanimous approval.
2. Discussion of government and legislative issues
 - Haynes provided a general overview of the work of his office which includes both advocacy and government affairs.
 - He summarized some key issues at the federal level
 - The continuing resolution leads to uncertainty
 - Democrats are trying to work on dreamers (DACA)
 - Higher Ed reauthorization act
 - Pell finishing sooner
 - Favorable to proprietary schools
 - Does away with score sheet but authorizes a new one
 - Tax bill (at the time of the meeting, the bill was still in conference)
 - College going families
 - 4,000 deductible gone
 - waivers gone
 - Institutions
 - No deductions for charitable contributions
 - Tax on endowments – just for privates for now
 - Estate taxes -- endowments
 - Farm Bill – facing major cuts and reorganization to try to get environmental activist under control
 - He then summarizes some key issues at the state level
 - Social issues will play prominently
 - A key message of his office is that hurting UT hurts national security
 - Member-to-member communication about what's important to them
 - Working on "locking in" friends
 - Need to get outcomes without starting WWII
 - Focused on the need for all UT constituents to connect with legislators and with their neighbors
 - Need to connect with the WalMart voter – UTIA as partner
 - Day on the hill – in February

3. Set meeting time

The group agreed to set a “standard meeting time” will most often be the second Wednesdays of each month from 3:30 – 5:00

The next meeting, on January 10, will focus on the UT foundation with a focus on the new “tax” on campus endowments. Ricky McCurry, vice president for development and alumni affairs and programs and Chip Bryant vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs will be the guests.