

January 10, 2018

Dear _____:

I wish you well as you pursue the work of the people of Tennessee during the upcoming legislative session. As a member of the University of Tennessee faculty for the past 33 years, I am grateful for the opportunity to work, teach and serve on the Knoxville campus. I am also thankful for the opportunity to represent the faculty as the current UTK Faculty Senate President.

My purpose in writing is express my gratitude for being among a bipartisan group of legislators who signed a letter last year to Terry Cowles from the Office of Customer Focused Government's Strategies for Efficiencies in Real Estate Management expressing your concern regarding the vested outsourcing process and the potential impact on state employees. The UTK Faculty Senate shared your concerns, and our assessment of the JLL Business Case for the Knoxville campus raised a number of issues regarding their claims for savings and quality of service. It is important to note that their cost savings were only proposed, much like an initial estimate for a home renovation or car repair, and did not include change orders, and add on costs. While outsourcing can be an important option for some services, our prior experience with outsourcing custodial work resulted in poor services, theft and diminished employee morale. Based on a recommendation from the Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee, on October 16 we unanimously passed a resolution urging Chancellor Davenport to opt out of the JLL proposal. We are grateful that she made the right decision. You can read our reports and solutions on the UTK Faculty Senate Outsourcing Resource Page: senate.utk.edu/background-on-state-outsourcing-initiative/

Looking forward, the UTK Faculty Senate remains committed to responsible financial stewardship that is consistent with our teaching, research and service mission. Thanks to the efforts of the Budget Advisory Group (BAG), UTK has achieved significant savings and cost avoidance as reflected in the UT Board's Annual Report to the General Assembly. We applaud these efforts, which for UTK have resulted in over 7 million dollars in recurring cost savings. Internal cost savings from energy efficiency returned 2.4 million dollars to the educational mission of the university in the last year alone.

With this decision resolved, we expect the university to move forward. We believe that the UT Board of Trustees, the administration and the faculty share a common set of goals rooted in the university's mission to teach, discover and engage. We look forward to working with Chancellor Davenport as she seeks to lead a university that is engaged in research, teaching, and service that addresses the educational, social and economic health and well-being of the people of Tennessee. Together, we will continue to work to make Tennessee a place people are proud to call home.

Thanks for your efforts on behalf of the people of Tennessee.

Beauvais Lyons
Chancellor's Professor and 2017-2018 UTK Faculty Senate President