

Faculty Senate Executive Council
February 18, 2019
MINUTES

Present: Misty Anderson, Mehmet Aydeniz, Mark Collins, Sadie Hutson, Greg Kaplan, David Keffer, Michelle Kwon, Beauvais Lyons, Crystal McAlvin, Larry McKay, Robert Mindrup, Samantha Murphy, Bonnie Ownley, Rebecca Prosser, Amber Roessner, Gary Skolits, Soren Sorensen, Rob Spirko, James Williams

Guests: Wayne Davis, David Manderscheid

I. CALL TO ORDER

B. Lyons called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. M. Anderson began presiding over the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Executive Council meeting of January 14, 2019, were presented for approval. M. Collins moved for approval, R. Prosser seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

UTK Chancellor's Report (W. Davis)

W. Davis announced that the Chancellor's search is underway. Airport interviews will occur April 1 & 2.

Provost's Report (D. Manderscheid)

D. Manderscheid reported that a memo was sent from the Provost's office last Friday, regarding progress on strategic plan metrics. He further noted that priority six was also described in the Chancellor's memo last week. D. Manderscheid reminded the group that the BOT meets next week in Martin; ETTR is on the agenda. D. Manderscheid stated that faculty appreciation week was very successful. There have been ongoing discussions with J. Zomchick, T. Benton, and M. Anderson about how we can express appreciation for faculty throughout the year, rather than just one week. J. Zomchick has been charged with looking at this more closely. B. Lyons asked about the rationale for separating from Confucius Institute? The Confucius Institute is a non-profit public educational organization whose stated aim is to promote Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching internationally, and facilitate cultural exchanges. D. Manderscheid noted that in discussion with G. Neisler and his cabinet, that the university has a broader interest in partnerships with additional geographic regions. While there has been strong support on the campus, there is also support for expanding. There are numerous restrictions on working with international graduate students, not just from China. Wall Street Journal had an [article](#) on this; yet the exact regulations have not yet been released. G. Skolits asked about whether CI provided external funding. D. Manderscheid explained that while the instructors were provided and not paid by UTK, they did not have extensive experience teaching in the U.S. As such, extensive training was needed. There are peer institutions that do have a partnership with CI that don't have a robust cadre of faculty from China—these relationships are often terminated after several years.

President's Report (M. Anderson)

M. Anderson reported that VFL films is launching "There's a Place at the Table" on February 20, 2019. This collaborative film helps grow the positive impact of faculty and social media presence, but the impact is difficult to measure. The UT Foundation Search is ongoing; this position is seeking internal candidates. M. Anderson noted that one important question to ask is about the charges of the Foundation back to the campus. This was not answered during forums. United at the Rock also launches on February 20, 2019. Thirty community partners are coming for the volunteer fair. SGA is also participating; one goal is to grow relationships with university partners; this may also be a platform to support other diversity initiatives. M. Anderson noted that there is a proposed bylaws change on the agenda today. To preface this discussion, she noted that we need to consider the long-term perspective on NTTF when we need to hire into tenure-track lines. D. Manderscheid emphasized that he was excited to explore this question; he looks for Faculty Senate to be very involved in the discussion. B. MacLennan could not be here today, but the UFC is trying to seek further definition on the process for deciding on faculty representation in the Education subcommittee. B. Ownley noted that she would like a faculty trustee. B. Lyons asked whether we could raise the question about the UT BOT meeting notification and agenda materials being available at least a week before the meeting. Some individuals at the system level are seemingly speaking for the Faculty Senate, in particular about whether we would allow a department head to represent the faculty, without having discussed issues with the Senate. Different senates have different dispositions and rules. There is a need for more transparency. There is also a need for ensuring that the person who follows B. Ownley as the next representative is a strong advocate. This individual will come from another campus during the next academic year. M. Anderson asked everyone to take some posters for the free speech event, which will be a collective project of advancing faculty voice and solving campus problems.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Early Tenure Language (M. Kwon)

M. Kwon sought clarification about what is going to the BOT meeting. D. Manderscheid noted that the ETTR language that was passed at the last Faculty Senate meeting is the document that is moving forward. M. Kwon inquired about the clause regarding early tenure pertaining to individuals who had been at the University at least 4 years. D. Manderscheid provided clarification that all System Chancellors must agree on this clause before it goes to the BOT.

Update on Handbook and Manual Consolidation (M. Kwon)

M. Kwon emphasized that the committees would be working with J. Zomchick to try to get this done before the end of the AY. The handbook revisions will come forward as a first reading in March and for a vote in April. As it pertains to changes to Chapter IV and joint language, M. Kwon noted that this has gone back and forth between the Provost's Office and OGC. C. McAlvin noted that the NTTI Committee feels that it might be important to put this back through the NTTI Committee, because the changes are substantive. The full Senate body will likely have to re-review these changes. M. Anderson asked what happens if the Faculty Senate votes it down? M. Kwon responded that she was not clear whether the Senate has the authority to stop the process. B. Lyons asked about whether the changes to Chapter IV are needed to fulfill concerns of the OGC? M. Kwon, affirmed. W. Davis emphasized that OGC is advisory only. M. Anderson reminded the FSEC that at the beginning of the AY we had two years of handbook changes in workflow. W. Davis noted that he and the Provost are committed to ensuring faculty input and moving the decisions forward, rather than being stalled out. B. Ownley asked about

whether the actual mechanism of the workflow was fixed. M. Kwon stated that M. McGuire has fixed the issue. M. Kwon will forward all documents to FSEC in order to secure a vote.

Report on the Legislative Outreach Effort (D. Keffer)

D. Keffer reported that there were 14 senators who responded to the interview request; there was a general consensus that legislators do take pride in the flagship. When asked about things they didn't like, they consistently noted that Sex Week is of great concern. Legislators hold a perception that the university is anti-conservative; there is not an objection to sex education. D. Keffer stated that another important point across legislators was improving graduation rates and ensuring graduates are workforce ready. He also explained that some faculty liaisons extended invitations to the legislators to come to campus. A. Haynes contacted M. Anderson and noted that one legislator complained about a negative experience with a faculty member; there is nothing in the database to indicate this. M. Anderson noted that the one "bad experience" caused consternation at the system level. G. Skolits noted that the person with whom he spoke expressed an interest in coming to see a class. S. Sorenson also noted that his conversation with a legislator was very positive. There was general agreement across FSEC members that inviting the legislators to campus to sit in on a class is a good idea. J. Williams feels that classroom interactions as a grassroots initiative is very meaningful. M. Anderson noted that this could be a goal for Fall when the legislature is not in session. W. Davis explained that Fall is a better timeframe: 1) less busy, 2) football connection – could work with folks to ensure that individuals could come to visit classes on Friday afternoon before the game on Saturday. G. Skolits mentioned that it would be really helpful for legislators just to come to campus on a routine class. A dual strategy could exist to combine visits with home football games, but also have additional visits periodically. J. Williams encouraged highlighting would be the Veterans Center during visits.

United at the Rock, February 20 and Sustainability (M. Anderson and B. Lyons)

Discussed above.

Volunteer Core Rollout and Meetings (R. Mindrup)

R. Mindrup noted that there were one or two questions that came after the Faculty Senate meeting; these were addressed. He stated that there had been work conducted to make the website user-friendly to faculty. R. Mindrup explained that Contemporary Issues and Solutions (CIS) is a graduation requirement that came with the package of VolCore, but it is not as far along as it needs to be. An undergraduate curriculum committee meeting was called last week to talk about processes and future directions. Each College Associate Dean was asked to provide 1-2 courses that would fit this category to help fit the CIS category. D. Keffer noted that individuals will not have a strong sense of what this process will entail until they start doing it. D. Manderscheid reminded the group that once people start applying for course approval, many more questions will come forward.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Update on Faculty Senate Survey and Dashboard (G. Skolits)

G. Skolits stated that the Senate survey is not yet finished; there are plans to conduct an annual survey. The goal is to have an improved sense of faculty priorities and to track progress. G. Skolits would like to build a long-term metrics/database.

Update on Senate Elections (G. Skolits)

G. Skolits noted that almost all caucuses have a slate of candidates. Some caucuses are having trouble getting anyone to apply. An attempt will be made to coordinate elections in the next two weeks.

Feedback on New Voting and Attendance System (R. Spirko)

Deferred.

Upcoming COIA Meeting (B. Ownley)

B. Ownley noted that COIA is a Faculty Senate group concerned with the well-being of student athletes. On February 23 from 8 a.m-5 p.m. in Room 377A in the Student Union, speakers will be coming to campus to talk about initiatives and issues. M. Anderson is going to talk about senate collaborations with athletics and J. Williams is going to talk about professional development of athletes. A. Blamey will talk about new changes in Title IX. B. Ownley will follow up with the agenda.

Budget & Planning Committee Report (L. McKay). L. McKay is going through a series of monthly meetings with different levels of administration. He noted that they met last week with P. Fulmer and athletics staff. Fulmer was better able to address questions, many of them budget related since the last meeting when he had just begun his position as Athletics Director. L. McKay reported that one important question was determining whether UT will work to move to a 3-year scheduling plan for football games. He emphasized that there is a financial benefit to the university and to students by knowing when the home games will be held three years in advance. L. McKay stated that the recent success of the men's basketball team has caused an uptick in ticket sales. Discussion ensued regarding MTSU and TSU getting approval to sell alcohol at sporting events. There was broad response that this will not happen at UTK. L. McKay noted that the final budget and planning will be done a little later in the year; a question still exists about when and if athletics will resume payments beyond scholarships to academics. The importance of this was recognized and emphasis was placed on small things that could be done to highlight good-will efforts toward academics. B. Ownley asked a question about a new bill that was introduced about betting and whether it pertains to College Sports? This will be explored.

Proposed Bylaws Revision for Election of Faculty Senate President (B. Lyons)

B. Lyons introduced the changes and noted that there has never been a Faculty Senate president who was not at least an associate professor with tenure. This bylaws revision extends the time period from five years since prior Faculty Senate service to ten years since prior service. An additional change pertains to electronic voting. A discussion ensued amidst committee members about tenure and whether it should be required for serving as Faculty Senate President. M. Collins noted that a conversation about the importance of the protection of tenure in this role is critical. B. Lyons noted that we must ensure that the pressure of the job doesn't cause concern about a contract being renewed if the role of Faculty Senate president could be extended to NTTF. M. Anderson noted that only tenured candidates have presented for the job in the past. B. Lyons noted that this will come forward for first reading on March 4 at the Faculty Senate Meeting.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS ([Consent Agenda](#))

- a. Appeals Committee (R. Prosser)
- b. Athletics Committee (J. Williams)
- c. Benefits and Professional Development Committee (G. Kaplan)
- d. Budget & Planning Committee (L. McKay)
- e. Diversity & Inclusion Committee (A. Roessner)
- f. Faculty Affairs Committee (M. Kwon)
- g. Graduate Council (M. Aydeniz)
- h. Library and Information Technology Committee (M. Collins)
- i. Nominations and Appointments Committee (G. Skolits)
- j. Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (L. Knox, C. McAlvin)
- k. Research Council (S. Sorenson)
- l. Teaching & Learning Council (S. Murphy, P. Rutenberg)
- m. Undergraduate Council (R. Mindrup)
- n. University Faculty Council (B. MacLennan)
- o. System Relations Committee (B. Ownley)
- p. Special Legislative Task Force (D. Keffer)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

M. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.