

Dear Chancellor Plowman:

It is the consensus view of the Faculty Senate that any committee formed to rethink, re-imagine, or re-envision the curriculum or how the curriculum will be designed and delivered, even in a time of crisis, must be made up of at least one-half teaching faculty, with proportionally accurate representation across rank (Full, Associate, Assistant, NTT). Below we have listed some of the principal reasons in support of this view. The current composition of the Re-Imagining Fall Task Force and other decision-making bodies does not meet this minimum condition of appropriate faculty involvement. Therefore, we request that you immediately amend the composition of the task force along the lines described, and extend the deadline for the findings by 10 days to give faculty time to participate.

Some of our reasons for this request are as follows:

The Faculty Senate and Tenure-Track and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, are primarily concerned about the integrity of the curriculum, and the way it is designed and delivered.

The Faculty Senate and Tenure-Track and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, campus recognize the COVID-19 Pandemic is a unique time in which the safety and the welfare of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campuses are challenged.

Numerous actions are taking place at the level of campus and system administration that may have implications for university policy well beyond this time of crisis.

We believe it is correct to assert faculty control over curriculum content, design, and delivery.

Faculty control over the curriculum and how it is delivered and designed is defined in the Faculty Handbook. And finally,

All discussion of curriculum, curriculum design, and curriculum delivery must reflect the primacy of faculty control over curricular matters.

Thank you very much for your leadership and, in advance, for your response to this request.