

Faculty Senate Committee/Council Summary Reports

For Executive Council Meeting January 24, 2022

Faculty Senate Committee/Council Reports:

1. Appeals Committee (No Report)
2. Athletics Committee (No Report)
3. Benefits and Professional Development Committee (No Report)
4. Budget and Planning Committee (No Report)
5. Diversity and Inclusion Committee (M. Violanti)

During the Fall 2021 semester, the committee met with the Division of Diversity and Engagement to discuss how the two groups could better work together for the upcoming year. At the end of the fall semester, we also met with the Division of Diversity and Engagement Leadership as well as the Diversity Directors regarding opportunities for collaboration. We received a request regarding annual training requirements for part-time and affiliate faculty who work with graduate students. We recommended for now that the unit require any additional training for these faculty that they deem appropriate. Finally, we reached out to the Department of Sociology, Department of History, Critical Race Collaborative, and Commission for Blacks to draft a Resolution Defending Academic Freedom and the Right to Teach About Race and Gender Justice and Critical Race Theory

Samereh Abdoli has agreed to serve as the Co-Chair for the Diversity and Inclusion committee and Nathalie Hristov has agreed to serve as the representative on the Council for Diversity and Inclusion.

6. Faculty Affairs Committee (B. Lyons)

[November 22, 2021 Minutes](#) address several topics, including:

- procedures regarding the dismissal of tenured faculty members to ensure meaningful consultation with Faculty Senate leadership/
- the status of a workplace bullying policy that has been in-progress for the past two years.
- An initiative for revising the Handbook to reflect more inclusive language.
- procedures to award emeritus status for former administrators in a UT System Policy.
- A schedule of meeting for Spring 2022.

[Faculty Handbook Proposed Changes and Pending Actions January 12, 2022](#) provides information on the current status of a number of Faculty Handbook revisions under consideration.

A December 3, 2021 Audit of College and Department Bylaws is currently posted at: <http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2021/12/12-3-2021-Bylaws-Audit-with-new-links.pdf> Faculty and administrators are reminded that two additional areas which should be addressed in all college and department bylaws include:

As a result of recent changes to the Handbook, colleges and departments are now expected to define promotion criteria for non-tenure-track faculty. Departmental criteria for promotion shall not be required if more specific criteria have been established by the applicable college. For more information, see section 4.5.2.

- Bylaws should remove references to the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* which since 2020-21 is no longer operational.

7. Libraries and Information (No Report)
8. Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (No Report)
9. Teaching and Learning Council (No Report)
10. Research Council (No report)
11. University Systems Committee (No Report)