

<b>Faculty Senate Committee/Council Summary Reports</b> <b>for Executive Council Meeting March 21, 2022 and Faculty Senate Meeting April 4, 2022</b>
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**Faculty Senate Committee/Council Reports:**

1. Appeals Committee (M. Griffin)
2. Athletics Committee (B. Ownley/J. Williams)
3. Benefits and Professional Development Committee (S. Madison)

**February 21, 2021 – Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jeremy Chandler, Anne Ho, Andrew Griffith, Stephanie Madison, Elena Shpak  
Absent: Brad Case, Tony Estep, Laurie Knox, Liz Teston, Forbes Walker

**Updates**

- Liz will be on research leave this semester.
- The updated Faculty and Family Care Policy has been posted online.
- The sick leave policy for 9-month faculty is possibly being revised again because there is no on-boarding (everyone starts with zero hours no matter how long they have worked at UT).

**Discussion about our Annual Goals**

- Follow up on family leave policy implementation, especially as it applies to teaching faculty. How are units actually implementing it?
  - The updated policy is posted: <https://provost.utk.edu/facultyaffairs/faculty-policies-guidelines/family-leave/>
  - We will check in with Lou and our Department Heads to see how this has been communicated. We will ask for the link to be sent out if it has not been.
- Meet with HR about what benefits are available to all categories of faculty and staff.
  - Elena found this table on the HR website: <https://hr.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2021/01/Summary-of-Benefits-ver-01-2021.pdf>
    - It is a good summary of benefits, but we have questions about the categories of faculty and staff that they refer to in the document.
    - We discussed concerns with the insurance benefits starting after the first full month of work. This could be a large problem for international faculty and post-docs that are hired. Is this delay in benefits made clear to new hires?
  - The HR website should have a link to the new Faculty and Family Care Policy.
  - We will email HR about these questions and concerns.
- Educate ourselves on and then document kinks and problems that people are facing in actually taking advantage of benefits, maybe create a faculty-wiki on how to navigate issues.
  - Faculty have taken a lot of surveys in the past few years that could have collected these concerns. We will ask Lou what type of survey data we can examine.
- Explore how professional development policies apply to all categories of faculty and staff.
  - We will revisit this later.

4. Budget and Planning Committee (P. Daves/T. Fridman)
5. Diversity and Inclusion Committee (M. Violanti)
6. Faculty Affairs Committee (B. Lyons)  
February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes ([link](#))
7. Libraries and Information Committee (M. Brannen/M. Collins)
8. Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee (A. Langendorfer/M. Stanley)

The NTTI Committee is coordinating with the Faculty Affairs Committee on proposals for revisions to Chapter 4 of the *Faculty Handbook*—including 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.5. We are basing this effort both on the work and observations of the NTTI Committee and on the 2020 - 2021 Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Task Force Report, commissioned by the Office of the Provost. The committee is working in conjunction with Faculty Affairs to accomplish this goal by the end of the academic year, including a liaison from Faculty Affairs joining the meetings of the NTTI Committee to facilitate this relationship. NTTI will meet on Friday, March 25, to finalize the

committee's proposals. The Co-Chairs of NTTI will join the meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee on Monday, March 28 to introduce and discuss these proposed revisions. We intend to triangulate between the NTTI Committee, the Faculty Affairs Committee, and Office of the Provost to accomplish these adjustments to *Faculty Handbook* language and policy and improve the relationship of NTTF to the university, and vice versa. The goal is to bring these proposals to the FS Executive Council at the April 18 meeting and to the full Senate at the May 2 meeting.

9. Teaching and Learning Council (B. Issa/W. Jennings)
10. Research Council (B. Long)
11. University Systems Committee (D. Patterson)

### **Agenda for the 2020-2021 Academic Year and Outdate**

#### **Agenda Item**

Monitor the unfolding relationship between ORII and UTK

Monitor the status of the Cherokee Campus

**Action:** On February 28th, the University/Systems Committee and members of the UTK Research Council met with Dr. Joan Bienvenue, Director of ORII, Dr. Marc Gibson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Director, Division of Partnerships & Economic Development, and Dr. Brad Day, Brad Day Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation Initiative. They addressed the following topics.

1. ORII ongoing development
2. The UT Research Park at Cherokee Farm
3. Other domains of UTK and UT System Research Activity

#### **Agenda Item**

Continue to encourage the BOT to name a Faculty Trustee (Perhaps the Chair of the UFC serves on the BOT)

**Outcome:** On February 24, 2022, the University Faculty Council met with BOT Chair John Compton and UT President Randy Boyd. Members of the UFC again urged Chairman Compton to consider taking the necessary steps to have a UT faculty member on the BOT. Chairman Compton stated that based on the fact that there are 75 US public university system boards and of those boards only four had faculty trustee. As such, he did not see it as a best practice to have a faculty trustee on the BOT.

#### **Agenda Item**

Support a title change of UTK Chancellor to President and UT System President to Chancellor

**Outcome:** This matter was raised several times this year in UFC meetings. Recently, President Boyd stated that it was not a viable option due to the legislative and administrative changes that such a title change would require.

#### **Agenda Item**

Revisit the matter of UT Presidential Searches- calls on the UT Board of Trustees to amend its bylaws to ensure a rigorous, open and inclusive search process for present and future presidential searches.

**Outcome:** A resolution in support of the BOT amending its bylaws to ensure a rigorous, open and inclusive search process for present and future presidential searches was passed by the UFC and sent to the Chair and Secretary of the BOT. In the February 24, 2022 meeting of the University Faculty Council with BOT Chair John Compton and UT President Randy Boyd, Mr. Compton indicated he did not see a need for changing the search process as the current process maximizes the flexibility of the process for the BOT and it worked successfully in the last presidential search.