

**President's Update**  
**Elisabeth Schussler**  
**September 13, 2022**

The Faculty Senate Leadership Team has been hard at work planning the two retreats and lining up issues of concern to address this fall on behalf of the faculty.

We call attention to the **CAS reorganization survey** that we will be discussing Monday (see agenda).

First, three cheers for finally see the **Bullying "procedure" on the books at UTK.**

The **UT Police Department is requesting a faculty member to serve on their Police Advisory Council**, which is mainly focused on safety issues affecting UT. The first meeting is Monday, October 3 from 1:45pm – 2:30 pm. If anyone has an interest in serving on this Council, please let me know.

A reminder that we are in the first year of an **Undergraduate / Graduate Council pilot program** where we approve their minutes (and associated votes to place items in the catalog) directly at Faculty Senate and not first at Executive Council. This means we have one chance to review changes – we are the final step before things go to the catalog. Please read the Council minutes to prevent mishaps like the one we will discuss in Faculty Senate Monday.

A note that we will be working to **"close the loop"** on items where we voiced concerns or ideas and are not wanting to make sure those voices are acted on. For example, we are going to be asking about progress on the recommendations from the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Task Force (from 2021) today (see Information items for that report). We will also be working this semester and likely spring on how to enact the principles we identified at our shared governance retreat on August 29 (summary attached as a information item).

## **Information Items**

### **Speak-In Event**

In early October, **faculty are organizing a "Speak-In" event** challenging the notion of divisive concepts with the message that the job of higher education is to talk, think, and teach about ideas that range from divisive to unifying, and that these change over time. If you want to participate, please contact AAUP President Todd Freeberg ([tfreeber@utk.edu](mailto:tfreeber@utk.edu)) by September 26, who will connect you with event organizers.

### **You Might be Right podcast**

Check out the new podcast with former Governors Haslam and Bredesen modeling civil discourse about tough topics. Sponsored by the Baker Center.

**Divisive concepts session – this looks great!**

TLI's ["Fostering Courageous Conversations in the Classroom" workshop series](#) is designed to foster connective and collaborative conversations around this and related topics.

The first workshop in this series is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:20 pm – 3:50 pm in the Student Union, room 362A. Our topic for that workshop is, "A Discussion About View Point Diversity". It is during this session that we will cover "divisive concepts", and we have invited a representative from the Office of General Counsel, as well as other campus experts, to join us.

The **College of Arts and Sciences is having a Budget Allocation Model presentation** (on zoom) on Thursday, September 15 at 4:00 pm. If your college isn't telling you all about their budget and the budget model, ask for more information!

**Chancellor office hours**

Thursday, September 15

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm in 316 Haslam Business Building

These are held throughout the year at different locations as well.

Join in one of these or one of the Provost's Coffee and Conversation.

FYI, do you know what we mean by a **"Modern Land-grant University"**?

The Chancellor has talked about it having three aspects:

- Access to education (including those not on our campus)

- Life-changing research (particularly work that can be applied, although all research is important)

- Supporting communities (taking what we know OUT to our communities)

**FUN FACT**

Our freshman to sophomore year retention rate this year was 89%, the highest it has ever been. This and increased enrollment contributed to almost 2,000 more students being on campus this fall than last year.