



**UTK Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  
Student Union Room 377**

**Minutes**

I. Call to Order at 3:34 pm

Attending: D. Ader, K. Baker, J. Chyz, C. Clark (for Carrie Castille), M. Gimmel, T. Freeberg, J. Heminway, N. Hristov, D. Kelly, A. Langendorfer, J. Laughter, E. Lukosi, B. Lyons, S. Madison, L. Meschke, B. Ownley, A. Roessner, A. Schoenbach, M. Stanley, L. Whitnah, M. Griffin, and J. Zomchick, President Schussler presiding.

II. Approval of Minutes

a. Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting [September 12, 2022](#) Minutes

Motion to approve by Lyons, second by Lukosi

Discussion: None

The minutes were approved. 13 in favor, 0 against.

III. Announcements

a. President's Announcements (E. Schussler)

All attending introduced themselves.

The president asked the Provost for updates on the implementation of the restructuring changes. The Provost indicated there are ongoing interviews and discussions in regard to the new interim Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences but no decision has been made. The new structure should be in place by July 2023 and the implementation teams should be in place by November of this year. The finance model for the divisions in Arts and Sciences is being developed. There will be one budget for CAS. There will be no financial changes other than those created by the BAM and increased enrollment. There may be costs for the restructuring but these costs will be covered centrally. The restructuring is a two-year pilot with a reassessment in three years. If the model is successful a search will happen for the permanent Executive Dean, or Dean, if we revert to the current model. The changes in Art and Sciences do not need approval. The new schools

(Music, Baker School of Public Policy, the College of Interdisciplinary Studies) do need approval from the Board of Trustees in February. The task force report will be released shortly. Once these changes are approved, searches will begin for the leadership positions. Faculty representation on implementation teams is welcome and encouraged.

A senator asked if the new schools and colleges would come on line in 2023-24 academic year. The Provost answered that they would. He is hopeful that much of the preliminary work will be done before official approval happens. There was a question about the College of Interdisciplinary Studies and how faculty and students will interact with this college. The Provost indicated that the data science minor would be one of the first programs housed there. No faculty will be housed there and their time would be paid for by the college when they teach in this college. The revenue will be split between the involved colleges and the College of Interdisciplinary Programs will grant degrees and have a dean but there will be no permanent faculty. The administration is eager to explore options for degree programs that will be housed in this college. The current IDPs will stay in CAS.

How will this college have a seat on the Undergraduate/Graduate Council or the senate if there are no faculty in the college? How will shared governance happen? The Provost did not have a solid answer. Perhaps this could happen via joint appointments and he hopes the senate will offer some solutions to this conundrum.

The Baker School of Public Policy has received the most press and many faculty are concerned about the threat of political interference. The Provost explained that there have long been discussions about housing a variety of programs in the Baker Center. The Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) program from Political Science will be a good fit as well as others to be determined. The Institute for American Civics will be housed there but faculty will still have significant input in how it is run.

How will the interdisciplinary programs work? Will programs be across college or departments? The intention is programs across colleges. Programs that span departments within one college will stay in their college.

Will the Baker Center continue? Yes, it will remain and gain an academic partner in the school of Public Policy.

President Schussler then invited Dr. Clark, representative for C. Castille, the SVC/SVP of UTIA, to take the floor. He shared that the previous structure of the Institute with four colleges, deans, budgets etc. has been centralized with an Executive Dean who oversees the four units. There were no questions for Dr. Clark.

The President reported on the TUFS meeting. This is the organization of all public university faculty senates. President Schussler and Senator Violanti attended the meeting and participated in discussions. All institutions have different policies and ways of operating. The president is looking for ways to be more efficient with our time. Does the executive council need to cover all the same things as the full senate? She asks the council to think about how to be more flexible and nimble, and she will find some time for us to discuss this in the future, perhaps at a January

retreat. We will be looking at our committee structure as well. Please give her feedback on these issues.

#### IV. New Business

- a. Diversity and Inclusion Committee [Resolution](#) to Support Housing and Counseling Services for LGBTQ+ Community (N. Hristov)

Senator Hristov reviewed the history of this resolution and its contents. UT was ranked the unfriendliest campus for the LGBTQ+ community and many campus leaders discussed how to improve this. The campus Pride Index has increased to 4/5 and this is perhaps a better measure, but the Princeton Review is one of the most influential reports and relies on student surveys. Students in this community often do not feel safe on campus. Housing and mental health support were primary concerns for the committee. The office of student life is working on creating a living learning community for LGBTIQ+ students but this information is not yet available to the public.

Discussion: There was support for the resolution but perhaps it could encourage university leadership to participate in the annual Pride parade in Knoxville. There was a friendly amendment to include this issue but it was mentioned that perhaps this is too much of an ask since it would mean the administrators should attend all events in the community (Asian Fest, Rossinifest, HoLa Festival, etc.)

It was noted that development of housing will take a very long time. Perhaps, “reallocation and development” would be a better phrase. It was asked what kind of mental health services are encouraged by the resolution. Hristov explained that having professionals trained specifically for LGBTQ+ issues would make a huge difference. The SGA asked for some of these changes a few years ago. There is some gender inclusive housing at UT but it is not well publicized or official policy. It will be important to check with Housing to find out actual current policies before we send this to the full Senate.

Other stylistic corrections were also suggested.

It was suggested we have a second reading before we send this to the Senate but it was decided to take a vote now on the spirit of the resolutions. Edits will continue up until the Wednesday before the full senate meeting.

The EC voted to bring this to the full senate in an edited form for the October meeting.

13 in favor, none against

- b. [New Honorary Degree Procedure](#) (J. Zomchick)

The Provost reviewed the Honorary Degree Procedure. This replaces the interim procedure and was created with faculty input. He asks the senate to look at the process and suggest improvements as needed. The nomination form will be open throughout the year. Can the

administration clarify what Faculty Senate Leadership means in this context? The Provost agreed to do this. The entire committee is made up of tenured faculty. This will be brought as an informational item to the full senate.

Motion to move to full senate by Griffin, second by Lukosi.

There was no discussion  
13 in favor, none against

c. Update on Undergraduate Council Procedures (K. Baker)

The council and curriculum committee are working on responses to the senate resolution passed in the last meeting. The February 2022 meeting with the 800-page minutes was unusual and should not happen again. They have increased the number of cycles for changes from 4 to 5. The college curriculum committees should also meet earlier and more frequently; how can we encourage this? There was some concern that it will be impossible to have college level meetings earlier if faculty are not working in the summer. Colleges may not be able to move faster. There should be a 28-day waiting period at the college level before it goes to the UC Curriculum Committee. This still needs to be finalized.

Minutes are color coded by level of impact. It was suggested we add a senate curriculum committee with a representative from each college to review the minutes for impact. The Curriculum submission guide will be updated on how to properly code impact.

A new committee would give the senate more insight into changes since the UCCC does not include senators necessarily. Can we ask senators to do more service? People are key even with the new software and need to be engaged. We will need to have a culture change to make this a priority.

Curriculog is the new software and an impact report will be run for all changes. This will not solve all the problems with changes but should alert us to impacts on all departments. There will be a 28-day waiting period here which will replace the college waiting period.

The president asks that the Executive Council send suggestions to Senator Baker on how to improve the process

The UC will send the informational document to the full Senate in October.

d. Faculty Affairs Handbook Changes (J. Laughter)

- Proposed Revisions to [Section 3.11.4](#) Visa Processing Issues
- Proposed Revisions to [Section 3.12](#) Procedures for Terminating Tenured Faculty
- Proposed Revisions to [Section 5.2](#) Office of Ombuds Services

Senator Laughter reviewed the changes. They are still reviewing the treatment of citizens and non-citizens but those changes will come later. There was a question on section 3.11.4 since it

seems we did this already last year. VP Kelly clarified that the issue here is about the tenure clock. This text has been reviewed and clarified by General Counsel.

Section 3.12 is a result of the Anming Hu case. The main change is making clear the involvement of the Faculty Senate leadership in these cases. We can make changes to the handbook without board approval as long as it complies with board policy.

There was no discussion on Section 5.2.

The EC voted to send these changes to the full senate for a vote. 12 In favor, none against.

V. Information Items

- a. Faculty Senate Minutes from [September 19, 2022](#) (Unapproved)
- b. Graduate Council Minutes from [September 1, 2022](#)

VI. Adjournment at 5:15 pm.

Prospective Agenda Items for Fall:

- a. Revision of Retention Review Proposal
- b. NTT Issues Committee Handbook changes (M. Stanley, A. Langendorfer)
- c. Upcoming Faculty Handbook Revisions (J. Laughter)
  - Faculty Role in budgets (§1.10)
  - Policies on NTTF (§4)
- d. Virtual test proctoring (M. Brannen)
- e. Intellectual property rights for online courses (E. Schussler on behalf of AVP J. Steele)
- f. BAM information (E. Lukosi, T. Fridman)