



UTK Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 2022
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Minutes

- I. Call to Order at 3:30 pm
President-elect Amber Roessner presiding

Senators not in attendance: M. Collins, S. Collins-Elliott, K. Franck, Y. Gao, S. Groenke, F. Harper, M. Harris, L. Jewel, L. Knox, M. Madhukar, K. Martin, M. Mitsunori, S. Mobley, K. Morgan, S. Munoz, B. Ownley, E. Schussler, R. Scott, K. Sun, and R. Toledo.

A. Alspaugh was alternate for S. Abdoli

Administrators not in attendance: D. Kelly, S. Mangum, G. Neisler, C. Cimino, and F. Cuevas

- II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes [September 19, 2022](#)
Motion by Fridman; Second by McAlpin. Discussion: None. The minutes were approved. 54 In favor, 0 opposed
- b. Undergraduate Council Meeting September 27, 2022 [Minutes](#) and [Action Items](#)
(K. Baker)

Baker reviewed the action items in the minutes. Approval of the minutes is approval of action items. One issue was giving Deans instead of the Chancellor the ability to cancel low enrollment courses. The other was on defining catalog year for transfer students. Transfer students can now use any catalog under which they were enrolled at any time in community college as well as while they were at UTK.

All low impact changes from curriculum committee were approved. The Institute for American Civics was given the prefix IAC and two courses were approved under this designation.

Discussion: A senator asked about the IAC courses and what they are a foundation for. More courses will be developed for a major/minor, but these courses will be required of all students in the program. They are taught by UT faculty. There is concern about how fast the Institute is being created and who will be teaching. Another senator commented that it will be important that the UGC keep preexisting curriculum in mind as the programs in IAC are created. We need to

avoid redundancy in course offerings. We also need to be concerned about omissions in the curriculum. The plan is to not duplicate any existing courses and instead to create interdisciplinary courses. All courses were approved by Deans and Department Heads. A senator asked if there has been a study on the impact of this on departments like Political Science. No study has been done.

The minutes were approved (54 in favor, 11 opposed), but then senators asked about what approval really means. Voting against the minutes mean that the items passed by the committee are not passed and must go back to the committee. The Parliamentarian clarified that senate can do a line-item veto.

McAlpin called a motion to reconsider the approval of the minutes.

Discussion: A senator asked for the reason for reconsidering. A number of senators did not understand the ability to do a line-item veto. It was pointed out that only someone who voted in favor can vote to reconsider. Senator Shefner voted to approve and then asked for a reconsideration. The reconsideration is on the table because many were unclear about what a yes vote meant. They would like to better understand what is being approved, particularly as it concerns the IAC courses. Perhaps we should have someone from the IAC address the senate. The IAC does not take any BAM money since the Civics Institute has its own funding. The question is if there is a financial impact on other colleges and departments who would have offered these courses. The course descriptions read like history courses, and a senator requested more detail on the content of these courses. A senator asked if departments can be notified of potential impact. That change is on the horizon from the UGC.

The senate then voted by majority to reconsider the approval.

It was suggested we postpone the vote to the next meeting. The committee will reconsider their minutes.

III. Announcements and Reports

a. President's Report (A. Roessner, proxy for E. Schussler)

Roessner welcomed the senate to the meeting and spoke to the Senate's mission and the agenda for today. She spoke specifically about the potential collaboration with Arizona State for on-line programs. She encourages the senate to review the informational items at the end of the minutes.

b. UTK Chancellor's Report (D. Plowman)

The Chancellor was not in attendance.

c. Provost's Report (J. Zomchick)

The Provost reviewed the honorary degree process which is on the agenda for today. He thanked the committee members for their work. RJ Hinde has been appointed interim executive dean of Arts and Sciences starting November 1. The new structure of Arts and Sciences (the creation of divisions with Divisional Deans) will begin in August 2023.

On-line learning week is next week. Senators are encouraged to visit this website: onlinelearning.utk.edu. The Provost's office has launched a monthly newsletter to celebrate faculty accomplishments. The Provost will hold listening sessions with departments to hear how faculty workload has changed since the pandemic. Coffee and Conversation will continue. There will be a suggestion in the near future for a change to the review of tenure-leading faculty to a more efficient model. Undergraduate applications for next year are up 50% and there will likely be more.

Discussion: A senator requested that periodic review for tenure track is important for identifying possible problems and surprises in for tenure-stream faculty.

d. UTIA Report (C. Castille)

C. Castille was not in attendance. Dr. Chris Clark, acting executive dean of UTIA, presented the report. Dr. Castille has asked the caucus chair to attend her team meetings and will meet regularly with the Ag Caucus. Dean Beyl is retiring from college of Agriculture. The new acting Dean is Dave White. UTIA has proposed elevating the Department of Forestry Wildlife and Fisheries to a School of Natural Resources.

Discussion: None

IV. New Business

a. [New Honorary Degree Procedure](#)

The provost reviewed the new procedure. It was suggested that the procedure be amended to include that the committee needs to elect a chair and the role of the nominating committee should be clarified, as should the guidelines for nomination letters and who can nominate. The Chancellor's office will do reference checks on nominees.

Discussion: There was a concern about the eligibility criteria regarding contributions or elected office, this sounds like a major factor in the criteria. A senator asked why only faculty can nominate, this should be available to anyone who wishes to nominate. Another suggested that financial consideration should be eliminated from the list of possible factors. The provost appreciates the input.

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

Senator Hristov reviewed the background for this resolution. The Princeton Review lists UTK as the most unfriendly campus to LGBTQ students. The Pride Index is another indicator in which UT scores higher. The Princeton Review reflects student perception so regardless of what is happening on campus, students still perceive the campus as unwelcoming. UT has done a number of spousal hires with a flexible definition of spouse and offers gender inclusive housing that must be requested. The UT clinic now offers a gender affirming clinic. Much is being done but we need to make a public statement about what we are doing to counteract the perceived unfriendliness of campus. There are a number of co-sponsors for the resolution. Hristov reviewed current policies and the policies of other universities (peer and peer aspirant as well as other conservative institutions).

A senator emphasized that making information more easily accessible is important also as a disability accommodation. A senator asked about the difference in usage of LGBTQ+ and LGBTQIA+. These were intentional choices based upon the information source selected.

Motion to approve by Alderman; Second by Nowicki. Discussion: no additional discussion. 61 in favor, 2 against. The motion passes.

Following the SGA model, the resolution will be signed by the Faculty Senate Leadership Team, and all sponsoring entities and senators and will be distributed to the Chancellor and the Chancellor's Cabinet.

- c. Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Laughter)
 - Faculty Handbook Proposed Revisions to:
 - [Section 3.11.4](#) (VISA Processing Issues);
 - [Section 3.12](#) (Procedures for Terminating Tenured Faculty); and
 - [Section 5.2](#) (Office of Ombuds Services)

Senator Laughter reviewed the revisions. These have been approved by the General Counsel and cannot be changed at this point without restarting the process.

Discussion: None

Section 3.11.4

66 In favor, 1 opposed

Section 3.12

62 In favor, 1 opposed

Section 5. 2

66 In favor, 1 opposed

The revisions passed

- d. [Update on Undergraduate Council Procedures](#) and [Curriculum Change Process Summary](#) (K. Baker)

Baker reviewed these procedures and proposed changes. This work is still in progress and is not a formal proposal. Changes include better safeguards for impact on departments and colleges, an impact report on changes, and a wait period of 28 days after college approval. Each college could have a person in charge of monitoring the changes in Curriculog, and we should also have a small senate committee to do the same thing. Once the changes come to the UG curriculum committee, interested parties could attend these meetings. Undergraduate Council meetings are also open to interested parties. Finally, the senate can reject changes. Baker emphasized that Curriculog will not be perfect, and we will not know how effective it is until after it launches.

Discussion: A senator asked about the question on the curricular form about economic impact. Under the BAM this question is more important than in the past. Baker has some ideas on how to evaluate this better. A lot is still unknown but everyone is very aware of potential pitfalls. These procedures will be only for undergraduate courses. A survey will be shared after this meeting for senators to provide input.

V. Old Business

- a. Strategies to advocate for faculty salaries within the new BAM environment (A. Roessner)
[Salary and BAM](#) spreadsheet
This is postponed until the next meeting.

VI. Information Items and Committee Reports

- a. [Faculty Senate Committees and Council Reports Plus Other Committee Reports](#)
- b. Unapproved Faculty Senate Executive Council October 3, 2022 [Minutes](#)
- c. Graduate Council Minutes [September 1, 2022](#), [September 29, 2022](#), and [Items of Interest](#) (Laurie Meschke, Chair)
- d. Supplemental Budget Analysis Documents from Old Business
[UTK Faculty Salary Report 2020 - 2021 from Budget and Planning Committee](#)
Budget and Planning Committee's PowerPoint: [2022 UTK Tenured and Tenured Track Faculty Salary Analysis Report and 2020 NonTenured Track Salary Analysis Report](#)
- e. From Undergraduate Council (K. Baker):
The university has purchased Curriculog and is in the process of getting it ready for implementation, as per recommendation of the Curriculum Task Force last year:
<http://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2022/03/Curriculum-Review-Task-Force-Final-Report-May-2021.pdf>.

VII. Adjournment at 5:07 pm

Respectfully submitted by Millie Gimmel

Prospective Agenda Items for Fall

- a. NTT Issues Committee Handbook changes (M. Stanley, A. Langendorfer)
- b. Upcoming Faculty Handbook Revisions (J. Laughter)
Faculty Role in budgets (§1.10)
Policies on NTTF (§4)
- c. Revision of retention review process (J. Zomchick)
- 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)