

**UTK Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Monday, May 1, 2023**  
**3:30 pm**

**Strong Hall B001 or Zoom**

**Minutes**

I. Call to Order at 15:34

Not in attendance: S. Abdoli; T. Berg; R. Blakeman; M. Brannen; Y. Efrenko; C. Ferrigno; M. Harris; D. Icové; L. Knox, K. Lasater; M. Madhukar; K. Martin, St. Martin-West; M. McAlpin; K. McCormick; V. Meloy; S. Mobley; M. Nowicki, C. Parigger; M. Pittman, S. Rampold; M. Sharma; J. Shefner; K. Sun; E. Teston; R. Toledo; N. Vines; J. Westerhold; Z. Zhang

The president reminded the body that we will vote by majority and not count votes (except for elections and By-Laws votes) unless it is requested by a senator.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Faculty Senate [Minutes](#) April 3, 2023

Motion to approve by Steiner

Second by Maroulas

Discussion: There were no corrections

**The minutes were approved**

B. Undergraduate Council [Minutes](#) April 11, 2023 / Voting Items [Summary](#)

Discussion: The president reminded the body that once we approve these minutes, they become policy. There was no discussion.

**The minutes were approved.**

C. Graduate Council [Minutes](#) April 13, 2023 / Voting Items [Summary](#)

Discussion: There was no discussion.

**The minutes were approved**

III. Reports

A. Administrative [Report](#)

Provost Zomchick was asked about the new “on-line unit” (replacing OLAP). This is now under the direction of Bruce Behn, Dean and CEO of EdPlus and he reports to the Provost and Chancellor. EdPlus is a provisional name and all employees are UT employees. This program will be in conjunction with Arizona State University and targets students who are older and cannot participate in a residential university program. A senator indicated that there hasn’t been

much transparency on this program and faculty need more information and transparency. The Provost promised a full report at the first meeting of the Senate in the Fall.

Can faculty rank be included on the System Dashboard so that it can be easily accessed by all? Zomchick agreed that this was a good idea.

How are faculty involved in the development of the on-line program? The provost said that these programs are driven by units who have created on-line programs. Right now there is a BS in Management with a concentration in Sales, and programs in Child and Family Studies, and Communication. These were created via the regular curriculum process.

A senator requested in-person exams for on-line exams since in her experience students “outsource” their homework and do not do well on the in-person exams. The Provost replied that they will work with faculty to find best practices with each unit.

The Provost shared additional information on the upcoming resolutions:

Scoggins shared that the administration has been considering childcare options and has been in communication with Bright Horizons who did a study on the need and feasibility. They are in negotiations on creating a new center, in addition to the ELC. There will be a faculty member on the committee that reviews the RFP and the proposals. Space and cost are issues so there is no timeline or promise as to when this will happen.

Bolton has done a study of space usage and who is in charge of evaluating space across the university. There will be a reorganization of how space is used and allocated and coordinated. He thanks the GSS for their resolution and it will inform his planning going forward.

This is the last Senate meeting of the semester and Zomchick encouraged the body to take pride at commencement for the largest graduating class ever. We are realizing our mission as a land grant to help individuals achieve their goals. The communication between the Senate and its committees and the administration has been important this year.

Zomchick pledges to work on continuing transparency and to work for the good of students. He expressed his gratitude for the efforts of all senators.

Vice Provost Williams invited senators to engage with her office (Student Success). They have focused on helping learners with the support they need. They have worked on retention, graduation and positive career outcomes. Much of their focus has been well-being. They are working on integrating this theme into the classroom, in a faculty fellows program, in wellbeing outside of the classroom, and in life/career readiness. Her office would like to talk with faculty and have their input. They would like to have a specific session for the Faculty Senate on May 9 from 3-4, library rm 605. There will be a faculty advisory council formed as well.

#### B. Faculty Senate May and Year-end [Report](#)

President Schussler reviewed the report and invited questions. A senator thanked the leadership team and appreciated the support and leadership that was provided.

Ciara Gazaway from the Office of the Dean of Students and Dean of Students, Byron Hughes, came to provide context on the bias reporting process and the campus climate concern reporting

process. The focus is on student support. Loneliness is a major issue for many students. Reports can be made on line or directly to the Dean of Students. Please share this information on syllabi and websites. A senator commented that one of the problems with anonymous reports is that there is no accountability. This office does not impose consequences but does support students as best they can.

President Schussler then thanked the committee chairs and the leadership team for their service this year.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. [Elections](#) (A. Roessner)

President-elect Roessner indicated that we have finished the senate election process and emails will be going out soon with committee preferences. Voting will happen via the surveys provided by email.

Recording Secretary Nominee, M. Brannen

Brannen was unable to attend so Roessner read her statement.

Communication Officer Nominee, R. Spirko

Spirko indicated that he is better than the alternative.

University Faculty Council Nominee, B. DuBois

DuBois invited the body to read his written statement.

President-Elect Nominee, D. Alderman

Alderman gave a brief statement.

#### **All candidates were elected to their desired position.**

##### B. By-Law Changes (E. Schussler)

[Main](#) (on the first two pages, anything in red has been added since our initial review), [Committee changes](#), committee change [overview](#)

Schussler reviewed the changes. There will be a vote on the main text, and another on the committee changes.

A senator asked about the number in the Appeals committee. It should be 18 current and 14 in the revision. It is important that the university is widely represented on this committee

#### **Each of these changes passed.**

##### C. Faculty Affairs (J. Laughter)

[Chapter 4 Handbook](#)

[FHB 3.10](#) (time to apply for promotion to full)

[FHB 5.4.1](#) (Appeals procedural verbiage)

For the Chapter 4 changes, Laughter gave context for the changes and discussed the work that went into crafting these changes. This discussion raised the awareness across the university on the importance of NTTF. Many faculty and staff have labored on these changes. It

has been a long process (3 years) and thanks were given to the office of the Provost and other administrators who made this happen. This is a good start for moving forward on positive change.

When do these changes go into effect? If we approve these changes, the document goes to the Provost and then the Chancellor. Some of the changes require BOT approval. They are on the BOT docket for June and if approved will go into effect in the 2023 academic year.

**The changes to Chapter 4 were approved unanimously.**

Laughter reviewed the changes to 3.10.

Is there a short cut to going up for full professor? There is a process for going up early.

**These changes were approved unanimously.**

Laughter reviewed the changes to 5.4.1. The ombudsperson approved the changes.

Issa pointed out a typo and made a friendly amendment which was accepted.

**The changes were approved unanimously.**

C. [Childcare resolution](#) (S. Madison)

Madison reviewed the resolution and thanked the Provost for his update. The resolution seeks the inclusion of faculty, staff and graduate students on the taskforce.

The taskforce does not have a timeline at this time but the Provost will keep the senate informed and the taskforce can begin its work.

**The resolution passed unanimously.**

E. Endorsement of GSS [Resolution](#) on Ongoing Construction Projects and Relevant Communications (E. Schussler, with G. Fields, GSS President)

GSS president Fields reviewed the resolution on space and building usage, around the construction of the new business building. They have had a listening session with the Provost. The resolutions tasks the space committee with using best practices for communication with affected units and the entire university community.

Motion to endorse by Eggers. Second by Whitnah.

Discussion: These issues impact not just the students and staff in the programs in the building being demolished but also those in the Haslam College of Business.

**The motion passed unanimously to endorse the resolution**

The GSS is working on a salary resolution on the inadequacy of graduate stipends. A resolution will come to the GSS on May 9. This could be taken up by the Senate Executive Committee over the summer as well. (The EC stands in for the senate over the summer.)

F. Research Council [Resolution](#) (A. Steiner)

Steiner reviewed the history of resolution on the timeline on grant submissions and reviews. This is especially important with the restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Is there are a reason for emphasizing Arts and Sciences? Won't this benefit other colleges as well? Right now, this has been a bigger issue in Arts and Sciences but it could be beneficial to other colleges as well.

**The resolution passed unanimously.**

G. Senate leadership transition

President Schussler passed the gavel to President Elect Roessner, symbolically marking the transition in leadership.

V. Information Items

- A. Departmental By-Laws [Audit](#)
- B. Faculty Handbook [Housekeeping](#)
- C. Faculty Senate Executive Council [Minutes](#), April 17, 2023
- D. Updated salary info, [21-22](#)
- E. Division of Student Life [Update](#)
- F. Committee [reports](#) / Committee end of year [reports](#)
- G. GSS Fundraiser - [Trivia Night](#), May 8, 2023, 7:30 pm
- H. Faculty leadership, mentoring, research [programs](#)

VI. Adjournment at 17:11

Respectfully submitted by Millie Gimmel