

MESSAGE FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT  
Beauvais Lyons, Chancellor's Professor  
November 20, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

A few weeks ago Chancellor Davenport [presented her reasons](#) for opting out of the [proposal from Jones Lang LaSalle \(JLL\)](#) to outsource facility services at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Today will be the first meeting of the Faculty Senate since she defended her decision to the UT Board of Trustees, and we will thank her publicly at that meeting for her leadership.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are also grateful for our dedicated facilities staff. As you encounter these valuable members of the Volunteer Family, please thank each one for the work they do to keep our campus clean, safe and green. The quality of their work is critical to our journey to becoming a top 25 public university.

We are also thankful for the efforts of the United Campus Workers, who worked thousands of hours with legislators, allies, and across campuses statewide to support our workers. It is important to note that projections of cost savings from the JLL Business Case were only proposed, much like an initial estimate for a home renovation or car repair. JLL's failure to address the issues raised in our [May 2017 report](#) and [October 16 resolution](#) informed our position, which is shared by many others across the state, including a majority of Tennessee legislators, local vendors, the Student Government Association, several city and municipal governments, and many faith leaders.

Looking forward, the UTK Faculty Senate remains committed to responsible financial stewardship that is consistent with our teaching, research and service mission. Thanks to the efforts of the Budget Advisory Group (BAG), UTK has achieved significant savings and cost avoidance as reflected in the UT Board's recent Annual Report to the General Assembly. We applaud these efforts, which for UTK have resulted in over 7 million dollars in recurring cost savings. Internal cost savings from energy efficiency returned 2.4 million dollars to the educational mission of the university in the last year alone.

With this decision resolved, we expect the university to move forward. We believe that the UT Board of Trustees and the UTK Faculty Senate share a common set of goals rooted in the university's mission to teach, discover and engage. We look forward to working with Chancellor Davenport as she seeks to lead a university that is engaged in research, teaching, and service that addresses the social and economic health and well-being of the people of Tennessee. Together, we will continue to work to make Tennessee a place people are proud to call home.