

Beauvais Lyons – Faculty Senate President
Establishing a Basis for Censure of UT System President DiPietro
May 7, 2018

A vote to censure is an expression of formal disapproval of words or deeds, with an emphasis on the actions rather than the individual. Below is a list of four areas of concern that establish a basis for censure of UT System President DiPietro.

ADVOCACY: President DiPietro and the UT System have failed to defend the UTK Office of Diversity and Inclusion from legislative influence, and have not been effective in defending student speech rights and the value of academic freedom to the university's mission.

OUTSOURCING: Rachel Ohm's [December 21, 2017 article in the Knoxville News Sentinel](#) provides evidence that the UT President was advocating for outsourcing while claiming to be neutral. This is further confirmed by his public statement against the decision by UTK not to outsource at the November 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting. The UT system has now charged UTK with matching the (\$3.8 million) "savings" falsely promised in the JLL outsourcing contract.

DISRESPECT OF CHANCELLOR DAVENPORT: Many members of the campus, local and national community have been upset by the disrespectful and unprofessional tone of his May 2, 2018 [termination letter](#) to Beverly Davenport. This has harmed the reputation of UT, and has undermined our goal of creating a civil workplace. Chancellor Davenport was also publically shamed by the UT President at the November 2017 Board of Trustees meeting for opting out of the outsourcing contract.

POST-TENURE REVIEW: President DiPietro has misrepresented our current and long-standing post-tenure review system in his communications with members of the UT Board of Trustees and in a [Knoxville News Sentinel column from March 5, 2018](#). He claimed the new Periodic Post-Tenure Performance Review (PPPR) policy was the result of a normative process of shared governance, when in fact, it was rushed and poorly conceived. Finally, he misrepresented faculty objections to the policy as coming from a minority faction, when [faculty surveys](#) on several UT campuses documented that a significant majority of faculty members had concerns about the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed policy changes.