



**FACULTY COUNCIL
MEETING 25 - MINUTES
Monday, February 27, 2012, 7:00 p. m. CST**

A quorum of members of the Council met at the Marriott Memphis Downtown.

UT Faculty Council Members Present

UTHSC	George Cook (Chair)
	Lawrence (LB) Brown (Faculty Senate President)
UTK	Toby Boulet (Board of Trustees Faculty member)
UTM	Jenna Wright (Campus Representative)
UTC	Janet Wilbert (Board of Trustees Faculty member)
	Lyn Miles (Campus Representative)

Guest(s) India Lane (Asst. VP for Academic Affairs and Student Success)

Call to Order at 7:00 p. m. CST

Approval of Minutes.

No minutes were approved. Minutes from April and October 2011 are still pending approval.

Order of Business

1. Faculty Senate Presidents at the winter BOT meeting.

Wilbert highlighted her conversations with Catherine Mizell and Katie High. Her conversation with Catherine revolved around the Senate Presidents and student representatives who are members of the Academic Affairs and Student Success (AASS) committee as ex officio, non-voting members not being reimbursed for travel to the winter BOT meetings. Wilbert shared that this sends a bad message about the "importance" of the FS Presidents and students. Although the AASS meeting was available by video conference, it was expressed that the interaction was very different via that medium. This is not a policy, but rather a cost savings attempt, and Catherine offered that the winter meeting usually has a light agenda and often doesn't have action items. Wilbert and Mizell agreed that each winter meeting could be evaluated independently, and if there were action items, then the FS Presidents and student representatives could be "invited." During the conversation with High, again it was agreed that this precedent sent a bad message to all stakeholders about the "importance" of these committee members. High recommended that all Faculty Senate (FS) Presidents and students representatives have their travel paid for at all Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings in the future and that video conference be offered to allow those who cannot travel to participate.

Wilbert asked High if the AASS agenda and supplemental documents could be shared with the University of Tennessee Faculty Council (UTCFC) for review and discussion before the AASS committee meeting of the BOT. There was no reason to not allow this since the documents are on

the BOT website. Agenda items are often placed on the website at a late date. It would be helpful if the UTFC could be involved as early as possible as agenda items are identified.

Wilbert shared that the “take away” message in this is that the FS Presidents must be engaged at the AASS meeting. They must be prepared for discussion of the agenda items and if necessary, be prepared to voice a faculty opinion, pose questions, or at the very least be an active part of the meeting. If the FS Presidents do not engage, then the perception will be that they are inessential to the committee.

Action Items:

UTFC recommends that the office of Academic Affairs and Student Success communicate with the UTFC members the agenda items of the AASS committee meeting prior to the Board of Trustees scheduled meetings. Motion by Miles, second by Wright. Carried

UTFC recommends that all AASS committee members be reimbursed, through regular Board of Trustee channels, for their travel to all AASS committee meetings associated with the Board of Trustees meetings. Motion by Miles, second by Brown. Carried

2. Academic Affairs and Student Success Agenda Items

- a. **Grant of Tenure under expedited procedures** – There was discussion that these requests usually occur for Chairs of Excellence and other unusual circumstances. There are guidelines that must be followed and that faculty and campus approval is in place prior to presentation to the BOT. Individuals must also have been tenured at their prior place of employment to be eligible. There was a question as to which committees should approve these requests.

For reference, the wording from the BOT policy:

“3. Procedures for tenure recommendation and approval may be expedited, following all of the steps outlined in Appendix A but on an accelerated schedule for the Board’s action: review by tenured professors in the base department followed by formal recommendations by the department head, dean, chief academic officer, Chancellor, and President”

<http://www.tennessee.edu/system/academicaffairs/docs/BdTenurePolicy.pdf>

- b. **Institutional Research** – A large document of the diversity demographics across the campuses for faculty, staff and students has been made available. These documents were produced out of a request for data from Trustee Karl Schledwitz at the last BOT meeting because of not having any “starting” data on diversity for the Diversity Advisory Council to use as a baseline. These data are voluminous and will need to be reviewed carefully.
- c. **SACS** – “Big Orange” (UTK and UTHSC) will be individually reviewed by SACS. This came at the request of SACS in a pre-accreditation visit. SACS is looking very closely at the credentials of individuals teaching in specific disciplines to determine if they have the educational or professional background. At the Health Science Center transcripts have not been routinely archived, so transcripts retrieval will take some time.
- d. **One-stop Center for Student Services** – no discussion.

There is no opposition or glaring questions from UTFC regarding any of the agenda items. It was discussed that during the presentation of the agenda items there might be opportunistic questions from the FS Presidents.

Old Business

1. **Old Recommendations** - Cook pointed out that there seem to be two previous recommendations that are still pending. The first was a recommendation that the President support the appointment of an ombudsperson on each campus. Since that time, UTK has successfully added an ombudsperson, and UTHSC is working on this. It was decided at a previous videoconference that this issue should be handled by each campus. The second recommendation "All full-time UT faculty and staff should receive at least 3% cost of living raises, before considerations of merit." was discussed and agreed that cost of living should precede any merit pay awarded. **This was deferred to the next videoconference and then for an agenda item when UTFC meets with the President face-to-face in April.**
2. **Next UTFC Chair** - discussion followed that the information on the UTFC website is incorrect as to the dates that the terms of the members end. It appears that the only eligible members to serve as Chair would be Jenna Wright or Mike McCullough.
3. **Training for Chairs and Deans** - Cook asked if he needed to follow up with Katie High regarding the implementation of a training program for Chairs and Deans. Lane indicated that there are several training modules in the works.

Hearing no additional agenda items the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm CST.

The next meeting will be by videoconference Wednesday, March 21st, 2012 beginning at 3:00 CST A face-to-face meeting with Dr. DiPietro will be held at the Office of Government Relations in Nashville on April 11 starting at 12:00 pm (noon) and Dr. DiPietro will join us at 3:00 pm. Some UTFC members will be joining us from the Leadership Institute reunion in Murfreesboro and will arrive after the session in Murfreesboro ends.

Respectfully submitted by
Janet Wilbert