



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, CHATTANOOGA, MARTIN, TULLAHOMA, MEMPHIS

FACULTY COUNCIL
MEETING 45- Minutes
August 20, 2014 4:00 p.m. (EDT)
(videoconference)
CALLED MEETING BY DR. DIPIETRO
August 27, 2014 4:00 p.m. (EDT)
(videoconference)

UT Faculty Council Voting Members (Quorum, 5 voting members)

UTHSC	Phyllis A. Richey (Campus Representative)	present by phone
	Martin E. Donaldson (Faculty Senate President)	present
UTK	Joanne Hall (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Candace White (Campus Representative)	present
UTM	Brian W. Donavant (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Jenna Wright (Campus Representative)	present
UTC	Susan Davidson (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Kay Cowan (Campus Representative)	present

Trustees (Ex-Officio voting)

	Thad Wilson (Board of Trustees faculty voting member)	present
	David Golden (Board of Trustees faculty non-voting member)	present

UT Faculty Council Ex-Officio Non-voting Members

UT	Dr. Joe DiPietro (System President)	absent
UT	Dr. Katie High (System Office of Academic Affairs and Student Success)	present

Faculty Council Guests

UT	Dr. India Lane (System Office of Academic Affairs and Student Success)	present
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Candace White called the meeting to order.

Correction made to attendees list for minutes. Minutes then approved from previous meeting: June 17-18, 2014.

Old Business

Candace White began discussion for setting this year's priorities.

- I. Cross campus online course collaborations were discussed. Phyllis sent the collaborative document for review. Difficulties were discussed, such as the problems with the collaborative public health MPH program course for three campuses. Katie described the

- process as it currently exists for ROCC. Candace asked what to do next. Action plan: None at this time, take a “wait and see” approach
- II. Phyllis asked about a degree program. Action plan: Katie will discuss directly with Phyllis and see where to start in terms of going back to this issue.
 - III. Family leave policies on all campuses. Candace pointed out that since HR is system level function it might be good for this topic to stay on the priorities. Thad responded that campus HR officers did clarify the information and the policy there. UTC – Kay said one department had raised the issue. It is also being discussed at UTM. Candace mentioned that in prior senate term UTK didn’t really want to raise the sick leave issue at UTK because the current “informal” policy was effective. David brought up leave policies regarding domestic partnerships, in the context of faculty/employees being able to have Family Leave if a partner needs care or in the case of birth or adoption of a child. Martin distinguished that he was referring to family leave, not sick leave. Thad expressed that there should be some consistency. Action plan: Continue to monitor needs, no action now
 - IV. Academic freedom was discussed. David reported that UTK has made a change to the Faculty Handbook clarifying Academic Freedom and free speech by faculty, and this was approved in June, in the Shared Governance section, not the Academic Freedom section. Action plan: India will share this with UFC again.
 - V. Candace pointed to the value of shared language and shared impact of UFC group. Phyllis concurred regarding also acting in unison. Consensus was that this would strengthen the power of the group. Action plan: Focus on shared language
 - VI. Research misconduct policy is under review and will need faculty input. This is currently not an active issue. Action plan: None now.
 - VII. Thad brought up future funding challenges and “big picture” concerns, especially related to program prioritization. Action plan: Report to be brought back to October meeting
 - VIII. Candace asked about program review and reduction procedures. Candace further mentioned that the metrics of a program could look poor, yet the program might be good, or be a service program needed by other programs, similar to mathematics. Katie added that a BOT policy/metric should apply across campuses.

New Business

The UFC needs to move from discussion to recommendation and policy stage

- i. Candace reviewed initial charter concept, including greater presence of faculty at BOT meetings. She expressed concern about “faculty tokenism”. Candace shared her experience, when FS president as being the sole faculty member on BOT. The result is that she was challenged to have to speak for faculty on all campuses. Candace suggested there be a presentation about UFC at next BOT meeting in AASS committee. Candace will serve as resource. It was also suggested that the FS President (Joanne) mention UFC in welcoming comments. Plan also to secure a presence at the luncheon. Thad reported that he suggested these things and received answer regarding cost and expansion to too many other groups. Jenna mentioned that this had changed from her earlier experience on UFC.
- ii. Action plan for greater faculty presence at BOT events: Thad stated a motion and Jenna revised as “We request that Faculty Senate Presidents as members of the AASS be invited to all BOT

- functions, including luncheons and dinners, and that all University Faculty Council members be invited to lunch meetings at BOT meetings.” The motion passed.
- iii. Candace brought up some inconsistencies and problems that accompany the fact that Senate President Terms often begin at different times. David added that in his case he had to serve as Faculty Senate President simultaneously with being a BOT member because UTK term begins July 1. Candace will check on details regarding when terms begin. Thad said terms worked ok for UTHSC. The consensus was that this would involve bylaws changes on some campuses, thus it was deemed a low priority item. Action plan: none at this time.
 - iv. A Faculty Task Force Coordinator is needed and UFC bylaws state that the chair appoints this person. Candace asked for volunteers. Martin Donaldson agreed to serve.

Informational Updates

Katie described accessibility legislation and that a Task Force will hold 3 meetings to make recommendations. Katie pointed out that the cost could be high to make all materials accessible. The focus is on accessibility for those with hearing and vision disabilities. TBR has scheduled a meeting that is open to UT scheduled for Sept 17-18. Katie mentioned that Faculty Senate Presidents would likely find the first day activities to be most interesting.

Katie also updated group on big initiatives for Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise. She noted that Randy Boyd is now THEC chair and driving initiatives. Katie didn't think the projections were that TN Promise was affected enrollments at this point. Katie also described the reverse transfer process as follows: When a student enters a 4 year institution from a 2-year one, that UT credits could assist them to have the 2 year school award a degree if all requirements are met. The advantage is related to the possibility that students with associate degrees are more likely to finish a 4-year degree. What is known now is that students entering with an associate degree are 10% more likely to graduate from 4 year institution. Whether this would be true for reverse transfer is not known. Katie also mentioned a statewide portal for adults to check their credits. Katie also noted that there are currently good working relationships among UT/TBR/THEC.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 1-October 3 in which there will be campus reports. Meetings for the year were summed up as follows: Three BOT meetings with 2 other meetings planned for 3rd Wednesdays.

Candace mentioned UT Advocacy, stating that communication of issues from Advocacy should be better. David pointed out the value of reminding your senators to sign up. Joanne stated that UT Advocacy's Haynes would add the Senate list to theirs, and David Golden mentioned that then those not interested could unsubscribe.

Several people agreed on the importance of wearing nametags when at events and meetings, which would raise faculty visibility. Action plan: Make sure all have nametags.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully,

Joanne Hall, UFC Secretary

Minutes for UFC Special Meeting with President Joe Di Pietro

8/27/14 4:00 p.m. (EDT) videoconference

Attendees: Candace White, David Golden, Joanne Hall, Susan Davidson, Kay Cowan, Thad Wilson, Phyllis Richey, Martin Donaldson, Jenna Wright, Brian Donavant, Katie High, Joe DiPietro

Guests: India Lane

I. The President shared an overview of the upcoming Board of Trustees retreat with the goal to embargo details until Sept 9. The retreat will focus on sustainability of the UT funding model and measures to proceed. Questions are unsettled regarding 3/3/0 (response to 3% tuition raise, 3% increase in expenses, and no new state dollars) and closing the financial gap that would ensue. Chancellors ideas/approaches are not finalized.

The President described wanting to do more than “tread water” in next 4 year term, if re-appointed.

He explained the agenda for the upcoming retreat with McTaggart, Peccolo, and Hengstler reporting out on current status and benchmarking against other institutions; Bill Fox reporting on state revenue projections; 3/3/0 reports from campuses; followed by two brainstorming work in two groups. The President will recommend that Chancellors work with Faculty Senates as we proceed.

Candace asked how we can help. Joe responded that faculty leaders work with the communications and advocacy units for direction. He described a comprehensive approach, a coalition, with coordinated messaging.

Kay asked for clarification about the possible out of state student and tuition models. Thad followed up with health science perspective. The President responded that out of state tuition and recruitment might differ across campuses, since non-UTK campuses closely border other states. Thad reinforced need for faculty input in decision making.

Joanne asked about coalition building, and the response by the President was more detail would be forthcoming, and that it would have broad base.

II. Candace raised the issue of greater faculty presence at BOT meeting. Her rationale was that there is a disproportionate number of administrators and others and at these events. There are comparatively few faculty. The UFC’s primary request is for open invitation to the day 1 luncheon. Dr. DiPietro will work with Chancellors to see what might work.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50.

Joanne Hall, UFC Secretary