



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

MEETING 1 - MINUTES

January 8, 2007

Arena Dining Room, UT Knoxville, Knoxville, Tennessee

Present:

George Cook
Lou Gross
Peg Hartig
Bob Levy
Lyn Miles
John Petersen
John Schommer
Gavin Townsend
Nancy Warren
Candace White

Notes below show initial/lead discussant in parentheses.

(Miles) UTC Merger Agreement mentioned regarding why UTC never became on par with UTK (PhD curricula, faculty pay, etc.). Official history of UT, called “To Foster Knowledge” (UT Press), is helpful to understand UC/UT merger & much UT history before c. 1970.

(Hartig) On whether faculty senates can/should communicate officially with legislators, the issue is NOT to “muzzle” the faculty (or, certainly, individual faculty members); rather, the issue has to do with UT not sending mixed signals. All agreed that we need to help legislators (and others) to better understand higher ed & UT. Levy & Petersen agreed to ask VP Hank Dye to pull together some talking points (both UT System & separate campuses) that faculty can use; points might also have a narrative “face” to personalize them. Whole notion is to help the faculty and faculty members be informed advocates who help UT stay on-message.

(Petersen) The unusual structure/culture of UT System is an asset: multifaceted units, with different missions. Operations VPs, Program VPs (e.g., acad affairs, research), & Support VPs (e.g., attys, PR) make us Pres Staff along with Chancellors. Some proper overlap (undergraduate Engineering at UTC, UTK, & UTM). Some tough issues are almost fixed about best way to organize IT, HR, & IR between UTK & System.

(Warren) Some faculty are questioning liability issues regarding Study Abroad. UTK Study Abroad info (see <http://web.utk.edu/~globe/pao/> & especially faculty info at <http://web.utk.edu/~globe/pao/faculty.php>).

(Warren) Some faculty members want to take their TIAA/CREF retirement benefit in a lump sum, but that is not permitted by TN state law; similarly, a “true” phased-retirement plan is not possible.

(Gross) Faculty would like to know more about how UTSI is doing. UTSI seems to have turned a corner in its initiatives to improve research productivity, enrollment, etc. Much remains to be done, but good progress has been made. UT New College (the engine for Systemwide web-based curricula) is changing its name to “UT Online” and will expand its course/program offerings. SCT Banner will be the package to be implemented for UT’s systemwide Student Information System. The UT Strategic Plan “Scorecard” is almost ready to be put on the Web—definitions, baselines, goals, etc. Campus plans can add additional pieces, but should strive to contribute to System goals.

(Gross) UT should strive to get increased state dollars without having additional students, especially because we already overuse contingent faculty. Issues of campus capacity are thorny. Sometimes called Enrollment Management, the issues have to do with physical concerns (classrooms/labs, faculty offices, housing, food, parking, etc.), with HR concerns (faculty [tenure-track, adjunct, GA, etc.], staff, etc.), and with fiscal concerns (costs of above, in-state/out-of-state fees, etc.). UTC & UTM have excess capacity in some ways (e.g., UTM parking), but already-stretched UTK probably needs to grow to about 38,000 students. Done properly, this growth could help UTC & UTM to expand.

(Schommer) UT should work more closely with K-12 to insure that entering university students are better prepared. UTM just raised its Frosh Admissions floor a notch. UT is ratcheting-up its P-16 work (in fact, there’s some hope that enhanced Math requirements will be approved this spring).

Faculty salaries and annual performance reviews remain tough problems. UT has asked for money to cover a 5% faculty raise pool. Faculty base salary should not be cut except for extreme failure to perform (short of termination), but cost issues at UTMG may be intractable without looking at base salaries (these physician salaries are unlike typical “academic” faculty salaries). UT needs to do both COL and Merit Pay. That will require additional revenue, but also better ways to assign responsibility to assess performance. Campus Chancellors have lots of latitude on this, but the principle of Merit Pay must stay in place & be enhanced.

(White) Some people in TN continue to say that a single higher education system would be more efficient, would reduce unnecessary duplication, etc. The structure & functionality of the UT System is unusual but well-suited for current purposes. Having Knoxville athletics report to President (rather than Chancellor, as at UTC & UTM) is both practical & a good metaphor for the statewide role of these programs.

(Schommer) Adjustments to TELS are needed, including allowing it to be used in Summer Session. Various proposals already are being vetted re TELS—e.g., increasing dollar awards, allowing students to go part-time, changes in GPA calculations.

(Schommer) Faculty members at UTC, UTHSC, & UTM want access to UTK library data bases. This would be an asset for some faculty members, but the costs of wider access will have to be shared by all campuses.

TBR has adopted common course rubrics & course numbers for its system-wide lower division GenEd program. UT could do likewise, but UTK GenEd requirements are too different from all others. UTK Provost Bob Holub is considering GenEd changes. See Attachment #1 for THEC Transfer Track that was adopted by the legislature.

(Levy) UT Board Policy on Academic Freedom & Tenure specifies general frame for annual reviews; faculty handbooks specify more details & describe criteria for faculty ranks. All present agree to ask their executive committee(s) if Board's 4 categories & language need editing.

(Gross) UFC needs bylaws & other "how-do" language (including way to fold-in initial elected UFC reps. Gross will share draft with others. Levy has corrected typo in UFC Charter (to include both faculty reps to UT Board of Trustees)—see Attachment #2.

Respectfully submitted,

Vice President Robert Levy on behalf of the Council

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

• THE UNIVERSITY TRACK PROGRAM •

Transfer and Articulation Module (Public Chapter 795)

The following categories of courses constitute the articulation and transfer module of the University Track Program for public higher education students in Tennessee. The courses in Categories 1 through 8 include forty-one (41) semester credit hours of the Minimum Degree Requirements established by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee. Category 9 represents the minimum Pre-Major requirements that are unique to each student's major. Students completing the sixty-hour (60) module may transfer courses for full academic credit to any public university in Tennessee. Students planning to transfer to a Tennessee public university must work with their academic advisors to ensure that all courses taken within the categories are appropriate to their intended majors.

- **Category 1: 2 - English Composition**

- **Category 2: 2 - Mathematics**

- **Category 3: 2 - Science**

- **Category 4: 3 - Humanities**
- **Category 5: 2 - History** (TBR requirement, TCA §49-3253)

- **Category 6: 2 – Social/Behavioral Science**
- **Category 7: 2 – Multicultural and Interdisciplinary Studies***
*Intermediate Foreign Language required for baccalaureate degree
- **Category 8: 2 - Physical Education courses**

- **Category 9: 4 – 5 Major/Pre-Major courses** (19 credit hours)
Sufficient to complete the 60-hour University Track Program.

Grades below “C” (2.0 on a 4-point scale) are not transferable.

Developmental Education courses are not part of the Transfer Module.

In accordance with Public Chapter 795, any student who successfully completes the sixty-hour Module may transfer to a public university and thereby meet the academic requirements for a bachelor's degree for junior status.

**University Faculty Council (UFC)
The University of Tennessee System
Charter**

The University of Tennessee System's University Faculty Council is dedicated to upholding and exercising the principles of academic freedom, shared governance, tenure, and the faculty's primary responsibility for the university's curriculum.

I. Objectives and Functions:

1. The mission of the University Faculty Council is to confer with, advise, and communicate with the President of the University of Tennessee system (and his/her staff, as appropriate) on system-wide matters of interest to the faculties (UTC, UTK, UTHSC, and UTM) and the President.
2. The UFC will advise the President on modifications of current system-wide policies and the development of new system-wide policies of concern to the faculties and the President.
3. The UFC also may work with the President to seek input from faculty members with appropriate expertise to participate in UT System task forces.
4. The UFC strives to provide a mechanism to ensure that faculty concerns are raised during planning stages of UT System policies that have an impact on faculty.
5. The UFC will also provide a mechanism for the faculty appointees to the UT Board of Trustees to become aware of and receive guidance on faculty issues and perspectives on matters that arise for Board consideration.
6. The UFC shall strive to represent the concerns of all faculties on all University of Tennessee System campuses and will gather and exchange information on behalf of the faculties of the University of Tennessee System.

II. Organization:

1. The UFC shall be comprised of the Faculty Senate President from each of the UT System campuses. Additionally, each campus shall elect, by a simple majority, one additional full-time tenured faculty member to a three year staggered term. In addition, the UT Board of Trustees faculty appointees from UT Faculty Senates (unless simultaneously serving as Faculty Senate President on their campus) shall be voting ex-officio members.
2. The UFC shall elect, by a simple majority, a chair at the last meeting of the academic year for the following academic year, and in no event no later than May 15 of the academic year. The chair shall serve for one year with a one year renewable term.

3. The UFC may elect other officers, as necessary, in accordance with its bylaws.
4. The UFC shall record minutes of meetings, and each institutional delegation to the UFC shall make available to its faculty senate and faculty the minutes of UFC meetings, together with any written report of the delegation or any necessary exhibits or attachments.

III. Operations:

1. The UFC shall adopt its own bylaws. The bylaws shall provide for regular stated meetings of the Assembly, which may be held at various locations.
2. The UFC will meet with the President (and appropriate members of his/her staff, as appropriate). Normally, there will be three UFC meetings each calendar year and additional meetings may be requested by the UFC or the President, if necessary, in accordance with procedures to be established by the UFC.
3. Records of the activities of the UFC shall be kept and transmitted to the appropriate successor officers of the UFC. The President will ask campus Chancellors to credit UFC service as part of each member's annual performance and planning review and also for members' promotion review.
4. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs will provide the UFC with necessary secretarial assistance and other necessary related services and resources.
5. The members of the UFC shall be reimbursed by their respective Chancellors' Offices for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings of the UFC.

Ratification of the Charter

This Charter has been approved by the President and the campus Faculty Senates. The Charter shall become effective 1 January 2007.