



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE, CHATTANOOGA, MARTIN, TULLAHOMA, MEMPHIS
FACULTY COUNCIL

MEETING 4 – MINUTES

January 18, 2008

Holiday Inn Nashville - Brentwood, Brentwood, Tennessee

Members Present:

UTK David Patterson, Beauvais Lyons
UTC H. Lyn Miles
UTHSC Peg Hartig
UTM Elaine Harriss
Trustees Candace White, John Schommer
Quorum? Yes

Not Present

Gavin Townsend
George Cook
Nancy Warren

Others Present: None

1. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Chair H. Lyn Miles at 9:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Elaine Harriss identified a few minor editorial revisions in the minutes of the previous meeting on September 3, 2007, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. CAMPUS AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. COUNCIL CHARTER

There was discussion regarding the status of faculty trustees on the UTFC, Bylaws, C, Section 1. The Council clarified that the UTFC Charter indicates that both faculty trustees are members. Candace White moved, and David Patterson seconded, that the Bylaws reflect that both trustees shall be *ex officio* voting members of the Council. The Motion was unanimously approved.

b. CAMPUS & TASK FORCE REPORTS

Reports for this meeting were given orally, but are attached to these minutes as written reports. The members agreed unanimously to adopt the practice that reports from individual campuses and task forces would be submitted in writing in the future and circulated among the members prior to its meeting. Reports will be attached to the Council minutes and should focus on system-wide issues, and major events or concerns on campus.

Beauvais Lyons presented a task force report which resulted in the following recommendations that were unanimously approved by the members:

Recommendation 1: Institutional Planning & Decision-Making

President Petersen should be encouraged to stress the importance of involving the University Faculty Council in institutional planning and decision-making. The principle should apply to system level task forces and standing committees.

Recommendation 2: Task Forces

System Vice-Presidents should be sent an annual letter from the UFC Task Force Coordinator at the beginning of each fiscal year inviting them to use the University Faculty Council as a resource.

Recommendation 3: Council Web Site

The University Faculty Council should establish a web site to enhance communications and initiatives that include a listing of faculty on system-level task forces and committees.

Beauvais Lyons will also investigate the creation of a UT Faculty Council website linked with the UT system.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. UT SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

The members discussed the trustees' lack of awareness of issues on UT campuses and the need for greater information about the campuses, including from faculty sources. Peg Hartig and Candace White indicated that UT Board of Trustees members often feel they can't control the agenda of meetings and have limited time for real discussion and deliberations due to structural, historic, and state record-keeping factors. The members also discussed the UT Faculty Council and faculty trustees' ability to present this information to the Board. The members unanimously recommended:

Recommendation 4: Faculty & Board of Trustees

A voting faculty trustee should always be on the agenda of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee to give a report on concerns from the University Faculty Council on faculty matters.

b. UT SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS

The members discussed the need for improved communication between trustees and campus leaders; for improved understanding of the risks/benefits of putting significant new state resources into the venture research (Governor's Chairs, Switch Grass, ORNL, etc.) compared with funds directed towards academic programs; and for improved understanding of the UT Scorecard particularly regarding funded vs. non-funded research productivity. The members unanimously made the following recommendation:

Recommendation 5: Improved Communication

The Council requests that it meet with President Petersen at its next meeting to discuss the need for improved communication between the trustees and campus leaders

c. UT SCORECARD

Recommendation 6: UT Scorecard

The Council requests that it meet with President Petersen at its next meeting to discuss the nature of the UT scorecard.

d. ENTREPRENEURIAL RESEARCH

Recommendation 7: Entrepreneurial Research

The Council requests that it meet with President Petersen at its next meeting to discuss the risks/benefits associated with entrepreneurial research, and a projection for return on entrepreneurial investments to support the academic mission.

e. UT BUDGET

Recommendation 8: UT Budget

The Council requests that it meet with President Petersen at its next meeting to discuss UT budget transparency and accountability.

f. FACULTY EVALUATION & SALARY

The members discussed faculty salary reviews and merit pay/market equity issues, questioning whether raises could be labeled as “merit” if they had not even covered the cost of living increase.

Recommendation 9: Merit Pay

The Council affirms its prior recommendation to address the cost of living before merit pay is awarded.

g. COMPUTER SECURITY & IT SYSTEM

David Paterson reported that a UT System IT Committee has been established whose activities will include drafting a job description for a future chief information officer and reviewing Student Information Systems (SIS) serving all campuses. UTK representative, Lou Gross has been appointed from UTK, but there are no representatives from the other campuses. The Council unanimously recommended:

Recommendation 10: IT & Communication Issues

The Council requests that President Petersen should provide the Council with a follow-up report on the status of IT and communication issues.

h. FACULTY APPEAL PROCESS & TIMELINE

The members discussed a recent UTK tenure denial case and unanimously made the following recommendation:

Recommendation 11: Appeal Process

The UT Faculty Council will work with President Petersen and the General Council's Office to create a task force to review the appeal policies in all Faculty *Handbooks* and to determine whether there are fair and timely processes on each campus as well as at the system level.

i. UNIVERSAL UT LIBRARY ACCESS

The members discussed the need for universal library access with faculty access to databases, and a UT Library card for non-UTK campuses. Candace White agreed to discuss this issue with Barbara Dewey, Dean of the UTK Libraries. The members unanimously recommended:

Recommendation 12: UT Library System

UT faculty members should have better access to library resources across the system and the UT Library system should move toward campus-wide access modeled after the Georgia and North Carolina state university system.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE PRESENCE OF THE UT PRESIDENT

The Council members discussed its desire to meet its Charter and to provide recommendations to the UT President regarding faculty matters, wherever possible by having the President present at its meetings. However, the Council also recognizes that its work is time consuming, and requires preparation and planning in order to make effective recommendations. Thus, the members reserve the right to have email and other communication with each other outside of formal meetings; to set its own agenda; to meet informally, if needed; and, on occasion, meet without the presence of the UT President or other administrative staff. The members also discussed the logistics of coordinating meetings with the UT Board of Trustees. It unanimously made the following recommendation:

Recommendation 13: Council Meetings

Whenever possible, and for convenience and cost, the Council will plan a meeting time and location in association with meetings of the Board of Trustees. A portion of the agenda for the Council meeting will include discussions only among the faculty Council members, while a portion will include discussions directly with the President and any administrative staff present.

b. VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The Council welcomed working with Interim Vice President Katherine High. John Schommer reported on the search for a permanent Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success. The committee has representatives from all campuses. President John Petersen and Vice President David Milhorn emphasized that the duties of the new Vice President will basically remain the same as those assumed previously by Bob Levy. Key duties will be an ability to work with the Board of Trustees; exhibit an understanding of academic culture; show evidence of being a respected scholar; promote diversity; work on THEC articulation agreements; promote STEM disciplines; and pursue innovation in on-line teaching. It is hoped that the new Vice President will begin in the fall of 2008.

c. LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

While we were not able to meet with Anthony Haynes for this meeting, the Council will try to have a conversation with him in the future to help assist his efforts on behalf of the University of Tennessee system.

d. DEVELOPMENT

Beauvais met with Vice President for Development Henry Nemcik in the fall and had a productive discussion regarding how the UTFc could serve as a source for development initiatives. Beauvais will follow up on this, and report to the Council at its next meeting.

e. CAMPUS REPORTS

Beauvais Lyons and other Council members expressed concern that too much of our meeting time is taken up by campus reports, and unanimously made the following recommendation:

Recommendation 14: Campus & Task Force Reports

The Council members agreed that campus and task force reports should be sent in writing (electronically) in advance of Council meetings to allow the Council members to digest the material, and to focus on discussion, action plans, and faculty recommendations at its face-to-face meetings.

f. COUNCIL BADGES

Beauvais Lyons distributed Council identification badges in the form of 1.5 x 3 inch millennium print PVC pin style name badges with orange UT logo. Council members will use these badges at Council meetings, Board of Trustees meetings, and other official UT events. The badges were obtained through Bradon's, Inc. 6714 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, (phone: 865-588-2211, fax: 865-588-3099). The cost will be covered by the UT system.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Beauvais Lyons moved, and David Patterson seconded, a motion for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES

MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Campus & Task Force Reports
3. Old Business
 - a. UT System Governance
 - b. UT System Communication Issues
 - Western campus issues
 - Southeast campus issues
 - Northeast campus issues
 - c. Faculty Evaluation & Salary
 - Lack of Connection with Merit Pay
 - Salary Plan for 2008
 - d. Computer Security & IT System
 - e. Faculty Appeal Process & Timeline (Daniels-White Issue)
 - f. Universal UT Library Access for All Campuses
4. New business
 - a. Council Meetings With and Without the UT President
6. Adjournment

SUMMARY OF MEETING 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Institutional Planning & Decision-Making

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CAMPUS & TASK FORCE REPORTS

UT CHATTANOOGA CAMPUS REPORT

Lyn Miles reported on two UTC issues. The UTC Senate Committee report, *UTC Merger Agreement: The UT System's Unfulfilled Contract with Southeast Tennessee*, was distributed by UT trustees Jim Hall and Bucky Wofford to UT trustees present at its November 2007 meeting in Knoxville. The issue may be placed by them on the agenda for the March 2008 meeting in Chattanooga. The UTC administration has commented that it does not agree with all aspects of the report but that it raises important issues that must be discussed. Lyn Miles also reported that UTC was instructed by the system to close the un-moderated campus-wide Raven list-serve; and to moderate the all-faculty list-serve. In response the faculty set up a Yahoo web site that has about 225 members at present. Candace White said that this action followed an internal communication audit based on the need for faculty to get prioritized forms of communication. All faculty Senates have a list-serve for communication between the leadership and senators, and among the senators, as affirmed at our last meeting. John Schommer reported that UTM has an un-moderated lists for university announcements (campus-L, Swap-Shop, etc).

UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER CAMPUS REPORT

Peg Hartig reported that the search for a new chancellor last fall—was aborted—and it will be proposed at the next BOT meeting to appoint Interim Chancellor Wall as the sitting Chancellor for the next year, at which point a future search will be conducted. The members discussed the issue of THEC formula funding and the need for more state funding. It is expected that there will be an effort to address the funding formula, as well as to support capital projects before a new search is conducted. Peg Hartig also indicated that the UTHSC had recently conducted a town meeting for all faculty to facilitate communication. There are continuing concerns about information technology.

UT KNOXVILLE CAMPUS REPORT

David Patterson reported that Chancellor Crabtree was forced to resign on January 3 over differences with President Petersen regarding campus/system governance and boundary issues. Members of the UTK Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with President Petersen on January 4 and Jan Simek was appointed as Interim-Chancellor. A retirement reception for Crabtree was held on January 17, and was attended by hundreds of faculty and staff. A number of other issues were discussed at that meeting, including the search process for the next Chancellor, and President Petersen's vision for the future of the university. On January 22 President Petersen will address the faculty at a specially called meeting of the Faculty Senate to discuss the results of a faculty survey regarding these events. The faculty have concerns regarding Research Facilities and Administration (F & A) being shifted only towards hard sciences through the joint institutes; control of Cherokee Farm (and the need for more space devoted to teaching and recreation for a land-locked campus); UTK control over information technology; and the balance of entrepreneurial versus educational functions of the University based on studies showing that more than half of universities having affiliated research parks do not receive lasting income from them.

UT MARTIN CAMPUS REPORT

Elaine Harriss reported that UTM is conducting searches for Vice-Chancellors. The UTM Senate conducted forums with two of their legislative delegates. Three additional centers will bring instructional resources to people in the region.