



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE, CHATTANOOGA, MARTIN, TULLAHOMA, MEMPHIS

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

Meeting 58  
January 27, 2016  
Videoconference

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

UTHSC	Thad Wilson (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Phyllis A. Richey (Campus Representative)	present
UTK	Bruce MacLennan (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Candace White (Campus Representative)	present
UTM	Roberto Mancusi (Faculty Senate President)	absent
	Robert Nanney (Campus Representative)	present
UTC	Susan Davidson (Faculty Senate President)	absent
	Elizabeth O'Brien (Campus Representative)	absent

**Trustees (Ex-Officio voting)**

	Brian W. Donavant (Board of Trustees faculty non-voting member)	present
	David A. Golden (Board of Trustees faculty non-voting member)	absent

**UT Faculty Council Ex-Officio Non-voting Members**

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

**UT Faculty Council Guests**

UT	Anthony Haynes (System Government Relations & Advocacy)	present
UT	Carey Whitworth (System Government Relations & Advocacy)	present
UT	India Lane (System Office of Academic Affairs and Student Success)	present
UTHSC	Terry Cooper (Faculty Senate President-elect)	present

## **Call to Order 4:04 PM EST by Brian Donavant**

Minutes of November 18, 2015 were approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### Tennessee Reconnect:

India described Tennessee Reconnect, the latest Drive to 55 Initiative, which is intended for students who have left UT without a degree. In the first two weeks since announcing the program, UTK has received 160 direct requests. We should direct potential beneficiaries to the website and have them contact campus staff. There might be 500–600 UT staff who could benefit from the program.

#### Legislative attacks:

India reported that there would be challenges to the new Student Code of Conduct and that faculty should be sure to provide input.

Carey reported that there is a great deal of animosity toward UT in Nashville. Issues include “guns on campus,” the Lady Vols name, textbooks, tuition, and diversity. Due to the elections, events are moving very fast, since the legislature want to adjourn by the first week of April so they can campaign. With regard to diversity, it is not clear which funding they are talking about eliminating. Reps. Daniel and Nicely’s SB1902 limits spending across the UT system to \$2.9M. It also limits employee participation in diversity activities if that is not your primary duty, and if your primary duties are diversity, they are limited to non-discrimination and recruitment. This bill has not been calendared yet. SB1912 diverts funds from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion at UTK to create a state program to put “In God We Trust” decals on police cars.

As in most years, there is a handful of gun bills, including HB1726 from Reps. Holt and Bell. It permits any fulltime permit-holding employee to have a concealed handgun on any UT controlled property, including the stadium and arena.

Carey reported that SB2516 reconstitutes the entire Board of Trustees, vacating all existing members as of June 1, 2016 and granting appointment authority (perhaps) to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the Senate. There are several tuition bills, including one eliminating out-of-state tuition. The Lady Vols name issue will be delayed for a week. There is a bill encouraging open source textbooks. (Katie will present the findings from the summer study.)

Anthony reported that Rep. Daniel wants to look at the efficiency of UT. Reps. Brooks and Smith have made a counter-proposal looking at efficient use of funds, as opposed to a full-scale audit, which would cost \$10–15M. Therefore, a comprehensive audit is unlikely to occur.

Anthony also remarked that the Senate is warming to forming a joint committee to look in March at diversity in all 4-year and 2-year colleges. This would be to our benefit, since it would provide an opportunity to explain how money is spent for diversity.

Some legislators are concerned about outsourcing and want to go slow and take a careful look.

Asked what faculty could do to help, Anthony said to be sure to register to vote and to encourage family and friends to do so as well. Don't do it on "the government's dime or time." Use your own cell phone. Encourage colleagues to get to the bottom of these stories and find out what is really behind these bills. Anthony's office can provide background information. Know the people involved and show up and grill them on these education issues. Many of them do not really understand the real issues, but only the hot button issues. We have to use the community to amplify the good things that UT is doing for Tennessee. Share the message with students. We are shaping the next generation, leading a return to civility and cooperation. This is the best chance for long-term improvement.

Katie asked what action UFC could take as a group. Anthony suggested staying smart on the issues, knowing your adversary and their arguments. Timing is also important. He suggested bringing legislators to campus to see that we are real people, Republican, Democrat, etc., so they see that higher education is not just a liberal institution that they need to get under control. You have to have a thick skin. First you have to listen to people and they have to feel that you are listening to them. They think we are for everything except traditional Christian values. We have to acknowledge that perception and then try to show them that they are misperceiving the university. You have to get over thinking you are right. It takes a lot of psychology.

Carey said that on some issues we will want to activate the advocacy network. At that time, a resolution from UFC might also be useful. There will be a series of hard votes for some members, starting with the Lady Vols name. Thank those that support the university, since we will need to go back to them for more support.

Candace mentioned that some faculty senators had asked about the Little Hatch Act. Anthony explained that using a non-UTK email address adds credibility, but that it is not illegal to use a UTK address (although those working on federal grants would need to be more careful).

India asked if there was much to be gained from the accreditation requirement that we be free from undue external influence. Anthony replied that it will resonate with those who are already trying to help us, and that it's good information for our friends to have, but that it won't carry much weight with the rest, because they don't care about things like accreditation.

Carey mentioned that we don't need the Chicago Principles in the Student Code of Conduct. If we make the faculty senates aware of this issue, we might be able to head it off. There are more important conversations to be having about the Student Code.

Candace asked how we could find out which legislators deserved our thanks, and Carey said they will either list it in a report or link to the website where we could see who voted which way. Candace asked if there was a diplomatic way to determine our advocates, and Anthony said we should call his office, since it could change from week to week. If we hear of a bad bill, and Anthony's office doesn't seem to be reacting, it is probably because they know it will not become a real issue.

The discussion continued after Anthony and Carey left the videoconference. Candace noted that legislative interference is a major issue and asked whether we should do a joint resolution. Brian said that generally, the more letters the better, but that he had heard from the Board of Trustees that this can also provide more ammunition to our opponents. He said that the folks in Nashville

will let us know when they need our response. Timing is everything. Katie suggested that when considering a joint resolution on anything, we should contact Anthony's office to see if it is advisable.

Candace asked whether we should send a message on UT Advocacy that we should not use our UTK email addresses for these communications. India suggested mentioning this in Faculty Senate meetings, since they try to minimize emails sent to all faculty; some react badly, and so they are reluctant to auto-enroll everyone. Historically, they have wanted people to sign up who will actually be advocates. If there is an alert, then the senates can push it out to all the faculty. (There is also a cost factor, since we have to pay for every subscriber.) For the same reasons, they are reluctant to auto-enroll all alumni. However, these are unusual times. These are issues that we will lose without outside help. Candace remarked that she had just got out of an accreditation meeting that focused mainly on diversity.

#### Board of Trustees meeting:

Phyllis asked about hotel reservations for the Board of Trustees meeting in Martin. Brian recommended the Hampton Inn and said that there are also two motels in Union City. India said that the hotel arrangements were probably not made yet, but she would check with Lisa and report.

#### UTHSC Faculty Handbook:

Thad reported that the document had been received, but they had asked for clarification from their administration and the system. They are also concerned that communication is going to the senate through the administration, not directly. India said she is looking for documentation of the 2010 approval, but that it is in the Board of Trustees minutes. Thad stated that the book in toto was not put before the Board. Katie said that they are in the process of gathering all the requested information and will send it, probably electronically. There has been confusion about what can be administratively approved. The Board of Trustees had changed some policies, and then required administrative changes to correspond with them. Terry stated that what was missing from the President's letter was an explicit statement that the 2010 handbook had been approved by the Board. Katie said she could not answer that question, but will try to find out exactly what happened with respect to the 2010 handbook. Thad noted that many problems had been addressed, but not all the questions have been answered. They will be having a conversation with Lela next Thursday. He noted that she only communicates indirectly. Katie asked what questions had not been answered, and Terry replied, whether the handbook had been approved by the Board, with the exception of the things approved administratively. Katie explained that when a handbook goes to the Board, it goes piecemeal. A paragraph might get changed, and sometimes another one should get changed as well, but it doesn't. She doesn't know exactly when it went to the Board in 2010. Terry noted that in the minutes it does not appear that the entire document was approved.

Katie stated that the starting point for future conversations should be approved handbook transmitted in Dec. 2015. They tried to make it a clean, manageable document reflecting the wishes of the faculty senate. It can be modified, of course. It has the appendices restored and minor changes to conform to Board policy. They have gone over it with a fine-toothed comb.

India said that according to Lela's notes, the 2010 revision was in two stages (Feb. and Apr.). She added that the decision for how a change is approved is on consultation with General Counsel; it's their call what goes to the Board, and Katherine's call as the delegated secretary of the Board.

Terry asked if the 1999 and 2010 handbooks differ. Katie stated that the new (2015) handbook is the handbook; it changes the starting point for future negotiation. GC has made the call.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM EST.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce MacLennan  
UFC Secretary