



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

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

Meeting 70 Minutes

February 15, 2017  
Videoconference  
Approved

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

UTHSC	Terry Cooper (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Phyllis A. Richey (Campus Representative)	present
UTK	Bonnie Ownley (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Candace White (Campus Representative)	present
UTM	Bob Bradley (Faculty Senate President)	present
	Robert Nanney (Campus Representative)	present
UTC	Joanie Sompayrac (Faculty Senate President)	absent
	Diane Halstead (Campus Representative)	present

**Trustees (Ex-Officio voting)**

	Susan Davidson (Board of Trustees faculty non-voting member)	present
	Jeff Rogers (Board of Trustees faculty voting member)	present

**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)	absent

**Faculty Council Guests**

UT	India Lane (System Office of Academic Affairs and Student Success)	absent
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**Call to Order 4:03 PM EST by Phyllis Richey**

Minutes of the January 18, 2017, meeting were approved as amended (*the inclusion of Bonnie's campus update under "Old Business, Item 2: Update on TUFs student carry resolution."*)

## Old Business

### 1. EPPR “next steps” – Update from UTK: Bonnie Ownley/Candace White – Transparency Resolution

Bonnie reported that the EPPR transparency resolution has been approved at UTK, and she has already received data from the last two years. The data were provided at the department level, but she will aggregate to the college level and share with UFC to show the data they collect.

All were in agreement that data should not be reported at the department level. Depending on the size of the campus and the kind of data (annual review vs. EPPR, for example), the data might be best aggregated to the college, campus or even system level.

This spawned considerable discussion about what to do with the data at each campus and who will store and protect it from going to the general public. The challenge is to share the data with faculty but not beyond campus, i.e., in the Senate minutes or website in order to protect confidentiality.

Phyllis suggested that after the data are shared with the faculty, the CAO/VCAA office on each campus should be the repository of that information. Terry suggested that the data should be shared with the Faculty Senate and the general faculty. His concern was that the general faculty might not trust the Senate to pass along that information, and "if the faculty don't see it, they will not assume everything's okay." It was also agreed that including non-tenure track data could be very telling because of the significant increase in this category systemwide.

At Candace's suggestion, it was agreed that because of the confidential nature of the information, we should check with General Counsel first to determine how widely we can disseminate it.

Jeff further suggested that each of us consider appropriate Senate bylaws changes at our campuses that codify how and when we receive the data, how we share it and who stores it. To ensure that our bylaws language is consistent, Jeff agreed to draft a suggestion for everyone's use.

To this point, the Senates at all schools have approved the EPPR transparency resolution but UTC, which will consider it tomorrow. It was agreed that when all approved resolutions are in hand, we should first submit them to General Counsel's office, along with a cover letter, before submitting to the administration.

Terry agreed to draft the cover letter in concert with Jeff's drafting a bylaws revision. Phyllis said we can discuss these two drafts at our March UFC meeting.

## 2. TUFs student-carry resolution – Any further updates? All campuses

Bob reported that UTM's Faculty Senate approved the TUFs student-carry resolution on Tuesday afternoon.

Terry said that nine bills involving guns have been filed thus far in the General Assembly. That includes open carry across the state. Candace said the group Moms Demand Action Against Gun Violence might be more effective than higher education in this cause. She suggested that we encourage faculty to join this group.

## 3. Budget Advisory Group (BAG) meeting – Jeff Rogers

Jeff reported that he had to step off that system committee because its biweekly meetings made it unable for him to teach his classes. He suggested that someone from UTK replace him because it's so much handier for the meetings, which are held in Knoxville.

He suspects that he was chosen for the BAG, which reports to Dr. DiPietro, because he is a BOT member. For that reason, he suggested that Susan replace him. He will get with Joe and report during our March meeting.

Jeff said BAG has been operating for several years as an initiative by Joe to help cope with the constraints of higher education funding in the state. Because the previous model was unsustainable, Joe has been taking a look at finding savings/cuts as he tries to find more revenue. That includes program efficiency and outsourcing.

## 4. Accessibility Changes – Any new information available? - Katie High/India Lane

Phyllis said this federal requirement is rearing its head again. Katie has reported that all campuses are developing plans to make sure all instructional materials are accessible. We hope to hear more from Katie at our March meeting.

## **New Business**

### 1. Campus reports

Bonnie asked if others are hearing anything about the free speech on public college campuses bill. Jeff saw it in Anthony Haynes' "UT Advocacy" update last week. Jeff said that, as stated, the bill is so vague that it can get faculty into major trouble determining how the bill is interpreted. He said the bill also pertains to outside the classroom and in dealing with student organizations. He agreed to forward that information to other UFC members. (*He emailed it on Thursday morning, Feb. 16.*) Candace said its constitutionality is doubtful and should be determined immediately.

Terry reported that UTHSC is discussing a resolution on anonymous balloting. They are also proposing several Faculty Handbook changes to the full Senate.

Bonnie encouraged us all to remind students to participate in Student Climate Survey to improve the low response rate thus far.

Jeff reported that budget hearings are ongoing at UTM, and we won't know anything for at least a couple of months. Robert said that fall enrollment indicators are showing an increase at this point.

2. BOT Meeting – Chattanooga March 28-29, 2017

We agreed to meet the night before the BOT meeting at UTC and the next day. Susan will make the arrangements and keep us posted. Katie and India will see if we can schedule a meeting with Joe prior to the BOT meeting.

3. March 15, 2017 videoconference – Cancel?

Our regular UFC meeting was canceled because of spring break conflicts at some campuses.

**Phyllis adjourned the meeting at 5:17 EST**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Nanney  
UFC Secretary