



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

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

**Meeting 69 Minutes
January 18, 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)	absent
	Robert Nanney (Campus Representative)	present
UTC	Joanie Sompayrac (Faculty Senate President)	present
	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)	present
UT	Valerie Yancey (System Office of Government Relations and Advocacy)	present

Call to Order 4:21 PM EST by Phyllis Richey

Minutes of the December 14, 2016, meeting were approved as amended.

Old Business

1. EPPR “next steps” – Update from UTHSC: Terry Cooper – “Transparency Resolution”
attached

Phyllis reported that we have received EPPR transparency resolutions from UTHSC and UTK. We are now awaiting input from UTC and UTM after their first Senate cycles of the semester. She said the target audience each resolution is the administration on each campus as shared with system administrators. Because of that, it was agreed that UFC will prepare a concurrent resolution with the others, which are campus specific.

Phyllis said it’s important that all campuses are in agreement on this important issue. Joanie agreed, saying that some board members just don’t understand it. The perception of some is that we just want a lifelong job and want to rest on our laurels. We need to convey the importance of tenure to protect us to do our best work. We need to clearly say that we want to be great, but we need a non-monetary incentive to do that.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that we will not present the UFC EPPR transparency resolution to the BOT because at this point EPPR is a system issue, not a BOT issue. We will present it to Katie and Joe – as opposed to sending to one and copying the other – to keep Katie fully in the loop.

Phyllis said the UFC concurrent resolution will convey that all campuses are saying that we recognize EPPR is here. We’re embracing it. Here are things we feel are important as the new policy is implemented. That will include the importance of tenure.

The goal is to have the campus and UFC transparency resolutions ready for our meeting with Joe prior to the March BOT meeting.

2. Update on TUFS student carry resolution – all campuses

Bonnie mentioned that Randy Byington (TUFS president) sent the following message to select Tennessee representatives (Harry Brooks, John Forgety, Roger Kane, and Mark White) and Senator Delores Gresham:

Legislators,

The Tennessee University Senate organization is the collective voice of more than 10,000 faculty members at Tennessee's public universities. The resolution attached has been endorsed by the organization's member senates. If I can answer any questions regarding the resolution - or the TUFS organization please feel free to contact me at this e-mail address (TUFSPREZ@gmail.com).

Thanks to each of you for your service to our fellow Tennesseans. Copy of the resolution was attached to his message.

Randy also circulated a press release, which was picked up by *The Tennessean*,
Legislators,

The Tennessee University Senate organization is the collective voice of more than 10,000 faculty members at Tennessee's public universities. The resolution attached has been endorsed by the organization's member senates. If I can answer any questions regarding the resolution - or the TUFSS organization please feel free to contact me at this e-mail address (TUFSPREZ@gmail.com).

Thanks to each of you for your service to our fellow Tennesseans. Copy of the resolution was attached to his message.

Randy also circulated a press release, which was picked up by *The Tennessean*.

New Business

1. Update from UT Advocacy Office – Valerie Yancey (*NOTE: Valerie was allowed to go first, prior to old business, for her convenience.*)

Our guest, who joined our UFC members from UTK, gave the following report on topics of interest:

- Today Gov. Haslam unveiled a plan to increase the gas tax by 7 cents per gallon for road funding. That will be a major issue during this legislative session.
- The state has a large pool of almost \$800 million in one-time funds, generated from the booming state economy. There's a lot of speculation about the use of that money. The talk in Nashville is that UT campuses could possibly use some for building repairs but not salaries.
- Medicaid expansion is a major issue. It all depends on Congress. The plan is for Tennessee to use block grants for TennCare funding. That will be the push at the state level.
- We expect a new push for school vouchers (education dollars to follow each child in public and private schools). A bill to that effect passed the state Senate last year and died in the House.
- Medical marijuana is getting more traction than in the past.
- There is a continuing conversation about the increased opiate abuse in the state and how to solve that problem.
- Human trafficking is a growing problem. The TBI is leading the nation in identifying the underworld of human trafficking. All 95 counties in Tennessee have identified distinct human trafficking patterns. Someone in Lake County sold her 5-year-old daughter for cigarettes.
- Higher Education governance continues to be an issue. Some are concerned about how the new Board of Regents boards will affect the UT system. She believes that because of the new political capital/fallout expended on those new boards, it might shift that focus from the UT system.

- Sunday liquor sales might be expanding in the state. That could affect our students.
- We don't know what to expect regarding student carry at this point until legislation is filed. There might be a push for open carry without a permit. Asked whether student carry was approved in any form last year as an extension of faculty/staff carry, Valerie said it was not.
- Asked if she hears any mention of eliminating tenure (as lawmakers in Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri have recently introduced legislation to do), Valerie said she hears a few outliers on occasion, but there is no big push at this point. That has been mentioned more in the realm of K-12. Valerie said even if that were attempted in higher education, it would more likely be for new faculty hires, not for those having tenure. She said there would be so much pushback – including in the form of labor lawsuits – that the General Assembly would not pursue it.
- Valerie agreed that after the Feb. 6 deadline for filing bills she will have a much clearer sense of the legislative challenges facing UT. She will send Phyllis a list of the most pertinent/urgent issues, and she will share them with us.

2. Campus reports

- Bonnie said that the system will soon be sending a climate survey to all campuses. It will come from an outside consulting firm. She also briefly reported on UTK's preparation for the new chancellor.
- Phyllis said the accessibility issue from federal government had been put on the back burner, but it resurfaced recently. She expects that all campuses will be hearing about that soon.
- Jeff reported that UTM VCAA Jerald Ogg has announced he will return to the classroom this fall. A national search for his replacement has begun. The search committee is being chosen.
 - Jeff also reported on the recent BOT action regarding the salary packages of the new chancellors. He had been asked to bring up during that meeting the rising compensation for the new chancellors. Data provided by the UT system showed that the rate of salary increases for administrators is greater than for faculty. Jeff said that when he brought up this issue at the BOT meeting, Board member Charles Wharton concurred, and that spurred a discussion that brought discomfort for some. The issue, which Jeff said got people's attention, might be on the agenda for the BOT meeting this spring at UTC. Jeff said that Dr. DiPietro's response at the meeting was that if we don't pay the higher salaries, we won't get the best applicants. Jeff's concern is that if we have to lure talented people with that kind of money, there is something wrong with the job or the campus.
 - Candace wondered where the extra money is coming from. Terry suggested that in further conversations, it would be good to broaden it a bit and ask the rates of increases for deans, assistant deans, etc. He predicts that those rates are increasing at a similar rate. Jeff said he hopes to have more data in hand for the next BOT meeting.
 - Jeff also reported that he is now the sole faculty representative on the Budget Advisory Group (BAG), which is Dr. DiPietro's appointed group to engage in longterm planning for the way the UT system collects and spends revenue. It is a

two-year appointment.

3. Update from Academic Affairs and Student Success

With no update from AASS, **Phyllis adjourned the meeting at 5:20 EST**

Next videoconference meeting: February 15, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Nanney
UFC Secretary