

**University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
Budget and Planning Committee  
Planning Meeting – August 29, 2008**

Present: Stephen Blackwell, Don Bruce (Chair), Nathalie Hristov, Jon Shefner

Absent: Denise Barlow (ex officio), Lee Han, Donald Lighter, Michael McKinney, Jay Pfaffman (had to attend IT committee meeting), Harold Roth, and Karen Sowers

The meeting started with an update on the faculty salary study from Stephen, who needed to leave the retreat in the middle of our meeting to teach a class. He has requested the update of the annual study and will follow up after the retreat with his contact(s) from last year.

- We still want better data on lecturers on FTE basis
- We also need to track issues regarding tenure-track vs. non-tenure-track faculty
- We need to contact Lou Gross to get information on gender equity study (he has apparently given software to Human Resources to re-do the study)

The members discussed regular meeting times and agreed that the final Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. would be good. Don agreed to reserve a meeting room and let everyone know.

Don asked each committee member to identify one issue on the agenda that they would like to have responsibility for and ownership of this year. There are lots of things to cover and only 11 committee members, but if we each have our one major area, the work will be adequately distributed.

Jon expressed a preference to continue our committee's work on the living wage issue. Don agreed to share all files and contacts with Jon.

- We need to review the methodology and data used in past UT studies, and also compare everything to the broader literature in this area

Stephen expressed an interest in some kind of mass action to protest the latest round of budget cuts, and Jon echoed that sentiment. A walk-out or teach-in were among the ideas discussed. No formal course of action was determined at this time.

Nathalie wants to learn more about what departments and colleges are actually doing in response to the cuts. The group discussed the possibilities (larger enrollment in popular courses, cancelled sections, increased work loads, etc.) and agreed that this could be a focus of our participation in the regular budget hearings this year.

Jon asked about our role in terms of the athletic departments and the UT Foundation. Don noted that our presence at these groups' budget hearings and other meetings plays an important oversight role, and that we should plan to have a committee representative at each meeting. Jon asked that we prepare and maintain a comprehensive listing of meetings and hearings that should be attended by committee members. Don will do that before our September meeting. It would be great to have one person serve as our liaison to the athletic departments and another for the UT Foundation (the same person might also attend meetings of the planning committee for the

Cherokee Campus). This is a vital part of our committee's mission, and our mere presence in the room can be enough to change things for the better.

Nathalie discussed extending the Academic Common Market, where students could take certain courses or programs at other campuses on a reciprocal basis. This might be especially useful in the event of program closures. The committee agreed that this needed more study, but that more information could possibly be shared with administrators after we learn more.

Nathalie suggested that the UT capital campaign be added to our committee's oversight mission. Don will try to determine if any meetings are scheduled, and add them to the master list.