

**University System Relations Committee Meeting
Wednesday February 2, 2011, University Center (218), 3:30-5:00PM**

MINUTES

Members: Beauvais Lyons (Chair), Svetlana Zivanovic, Cathy Cochran, Toby Boulet (BOT), Hillary Fouts,

Members Absent: Doug Blaze, India Lane (UTFC), Gregory Sedrick, John Lounsbury

Guest: Vice-President Hank Dye

1. **Approval of the minutes from December 1, 2010** approved by consensus as posted at: http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2010-11/System%20Relations_12-1-10.pdf
2. **Spring Legislative Session:** Discussion with Vice-President Hank Dye. For historical perspective, see the November 2, 2009 meeting of the System Relations Committee: http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_11-02-09.pdf

Hank Dye expressed thanks for building a stronger relationship with the faculty, and credited Jan Simek with helping his own appreciation for the role of faculty in working on legislative relations. He noted that the university is trying to maintain appropriations while also growing some revenue opportunities. Legislative realities are not favorable as legislators have to run for office every two years. Hank also indicated that the state is not mandated to fund higher education, but has mandates to fund prisons, K-12 education and health care. He also said that Governor Haslam has taken a public position supportive of higher education, but new relationships with the administration will need to be formed. In addition, there are 22 new legislators many of whom need to learn the role of the university. 14 of these new legislators attended an IPS sponsored orientation on the legislative process that took place at UTK recently. Beth Harwell, the new legislative leader appears to value and appreciate higher education. Hank Dye said the Complete College Tennessee Act and performance based funding will hopefully drive the process in the next few years. Under this act THEC has more responsibility and the funding formula requires a revenue commitment from the state.

Beauvais Lyons asked how UT is working with the TBR system in legislative relations. Hank Dye said that John Morgan and Joe DiPietro have a good working relationship in preparation for the recent budget hearings in Nashville, which did not fix any proposed future tuition rate. Among several issues they are working on together include streamlining building processes, as well as looking at the potential to issue bonds for future capital projects.

There was general discussion of the expectations of the legislature, their understanding of the value of higher education to the state, and how many of them have at least a college degree. UT Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 9th. Students, faculty and staff from all campuses will be going to Nashville. Governor Haslam will make the "State of the State" address on March 14th, which will include his proposed budget.

Hank Dye and Anthony Haynes keep a close eye on legislative committee meetings, and engage with the process if needed. Sometimes they need to involve faculty in preparing a response. Some upcoming issues include:

- The potential of budget reductions for the university
- Lottery shortfall in recent years and ways to correct this by awarding the scholarships to fewer students, lowering award amounts, etc.
- Access by For-Profit colleges to lottery funds or other public funds

- There are also 4 bills of concern: a) Campfield – Senate Bill 51: full-time faculty and staff will have a right to carry firearms, b) Campfield - Senate Bill 9: an “illegal alien” bill that places an additional administrative burden on campuses as the current student application process screens out over 99% of potential “illegal aliens” already, c) Campfield - Senate Bill 113, mandatory articulation for military education that can include non-accredited coursework, d) Tracy – Senate Bill 264: All campus locksmiths are licensed.

Hank Dye noted that the legislative web site is being updated at:

<http://www.tennessee.edu/govrelations/>

Each week the site includes a new post every Friday on activities that are taking place in the Tennessee Legislature.

On February 9th UT will host a reception in Washington DC with the new congressmen from Tennessee to make sure they are aware of the impact of federal funding on our research programs.

Svetlana Zivanovic asked about what kinds of research activities should be showcased during the “UT Day on the Hill” event. Hank Dye said it could range from a variety of fields, especially useful are ones that inform issues and policies before the legislature. There was additional discussion regarding how to involve deans and department heads in proposing faculty and students for presentations in Nashville, or with campus visits during summer and fall when they are not in session.

3. **Report from the UT Faculty Council:** Toby Boulet reported. Some issues that the UTFC have addressed recently are making sure all campuses have promotional raises. Other topics include a set of compensation guidelines approved every June, but they have not been vetted on every campus for feedback, including counter offers. There was also discussion of campus climate surveys. Also the Health Sciences Center may be expanding to Knoxville due to space limitations, which would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees. UTFC have been having monthly video-conferences in addition to meeting at the meetings of trustees.
4. **Discussion of Warren Neal’s book *The Accidental Dean*:** Beauvais Lyons noted that copies of the book are available to anyone who is interested in reading it.
5. **Future Meetings:**
Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm on March 9 and April 6, 2011 are currently reserved, but given problems for many of the committee members with these dates/times, Beauvais Lyons will try <http://www.doodle.com/> for on-line scheduling for other potential days/times.
6. **Adjournment:** at 5:05pm