

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
April 28, 2003

Those absent were: Hamparsum Bozdogan, Paula Carney, Thomas Davies, Marlene Davis, Sylvia Davis, Barbara Dewey, Tom Doherty, Susan Hamilton, Marion Hansen, Mark Hedrick*, Leslie Hickok, Majid Keyhani, Ken Kimble, Jon Levin*, William Lyons, Jeff MacCabe, Tamara Miller, Wayne Mulkey, Bill Nugent, Robert Perrin, Gilya Schmidt, John Shumaker, Marlys Staudt, Esteban Walker, John Waller*, Dan Ward, Jan Williams

*Guests: J. W. Thelin for Mark Hedrick, F. N. Schrick for John Waller, Bill Blass for Jon Levin

F. Michael Combs, Presiding

M. Combs called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of Quorum (S. Jordan)

Jordan confirmed that there was a quorum present.

President's Report (M. Combs)

Combs thanked staff from the OIT for providing a web cast of today's meeting. He then introduced the new student leaders and asked them to stand to be recognized. He introduced the Faculty Senate's Clerical Secretary, Sharonne Winston, and presented her with a flower bouquet. He next noted that copies of his "President's Message" from the most recent Faculty Senate Newsletter are available at the meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 7, 2003, were approved without change. Minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting of April 14, 2003, were presented next; there were no changes.

SENATE BYLAWS

Bylaws changes to be voted on (G. Graber)

Graber noted the major features concerning the change in Article I, Section 1(B) (eligibility to serve as senator). There was no discussion and the change was approved unanimously. Graber next moved to Article I, Section 1(B)1 (duties of a faculty senator). This new section also was approved unanimously. Graber next described the changes to Article II, Section 2 (timing of elections of senators, administration by president); the changes were approved.

Graber then moved to the change of the name of the Committee on Committees; it, too, passed unanimously. He next moved to Article III, Section 8 (election of Committee on Committees, now Committee on Nominations and Appointments). After some clarifications by Graber, the Faculty Senate approved the change. Next considered was a change in the college or division caucuses; it, too, passed without objection.

Graber next moved to Article III, Section 10 (election of officers). Concern was expressed about not having a president-elect. P. Phillips responded that being president-elect was not very useful for

him and that the changes were intended primarily to allow a president to run for a second term. Various other remarks on each side of the question were made and then the motion was defeated. Graber next moved to Article III, Section 2 (membership of Committee on Committees, now Committee on Nominations and Appointments); the motion passed unanimously. Graber then moved to Article III, Section 3C (assigning the role of the Bylaws Committee to the Executive Committee and deleting the Bylaws Committee). This motion was approved almost unanimously.

Graber next moved to Article III, Section 3F (1) (new membership for the Executive Committee, assuming duties of Bylaws Committee and Government Relations Committees). It was clarified by B. Lyons that the changes could not be accomplished completely before next spring. He also clarified which administrators would be on the committee. J. Coddington moved to table the motion, so that further discussion can occur next year. L. Gross seconded the motion. C. White spoke in favor of tabling. Phillips noted that the Executive Committee currently is too large and should be smaller next year. D. Birdwell said that the Executive Committee currently serves as a forum for discussion by the chairs of the committees as well as trying to respond quickly to the administration. There was no one else to speak against tabling and the motion to table was approved overwhelmingly. The next item (deleting the Government Relations Committee and assigning its role to the Executive Committee) also was tabled. The next items (deleting a sentence about the president-elect and changing the title president-elect to vice-president) were made moot by an earlier tabling.

Graber then moved to Article IV, Section 2 (adding to the position of president-elect the duty to supervise college or division caucuses). M. Anderson commented that the president-elect seems to have very many duties. Phillips agreed and said the training would serve the person well. This change was approved unanimously.

E. Sutherland then read the following resolution from the Research Council:

Whereas the Research Council is concerned that a reduction in the number of elected representatives to the Faculty Senate will harm the effectiveness of the Research Council and other committees of the Faculty Senate, and

whereas the reduced size of the Faculty Senate will make it more difficult to find an adequate number of members to conduct Research Council business, and

whereas the status of the Research Council and other Faculty Senate committees will be reduced from bodies that speak as elected representatives of the faculty to appointed bodies that do not have this mandate; therefore,

the Research Council does not support changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate that will cause or lead to a reduction in the number of elected faculty members who serve on the Faculty Senate.

Her reading was taken as an information item to be considered next year.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Establishment of the New Advisory Task Force on IT (M. Combs)

Combs noted that the Executive Committee recommended the establishment and noted that the proposed members are named in the recommendation. Birdwell and Phillips suggested that names of ex-officio members be deleted and Lyons asked that the minutes reflect that the Executive

Committee recommended having a member of the College of Law on the Task Force. The recommendation then was approved.

Approval of 2002-2003 Senate Budget (M. Combs)

Lyons noted that the proposed budget is not comprehensive. B. Blass asked whether the half-time graduate assistantship is for nine or twelve months. Lyons answered, "Regrettably, nine." The budget was approved.

Approval of Summer Executive Council (M. Combs)

The proposed council was approved without discussion.

Action on Final Draft of IT AUP (F. Weber)

Weber noted that two paragraphs related to storage of data have been deleted to allow further study. They are the first two paragraphs under "Compliance." W. Morgan asked whether "telecommunications equipment" under "Scope" includes telephones. It does not and was changed to "computer networks." J. Malia then asked whether the present document really is acceptable. F. Muly said it is, but there are some matters that require further discussion. This policy was approved almost unanimously.

Approval of Membership to 2003-04 Senate Committees (B. Lyons)

The working document (distributed at the meeting) was approved.

COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL REPORTS

Comments by the Provost (L. Crabtree)

Crabtree briefly reviewed the year and highlighted some positive events. He also thanked the Faculty Senate and all the faculty for their work during the year. He said he believes that by working together we will make Tennessee a better place for all of us. He complimented K. Greenberg, Combs and Lyons for their work. He ended by noting that only the administration and the Faculty Senate look at the university as a whole.

Committee to Revise the Faculty Handbook (M. Moffett)

Moffett had no report, but Combs asked the committee to stand and be recognized.

Final Reports of Senate Standing Committees (M. Combs)

Combs noted that the reports had been distributed already and that no action is needed.

Nominating Committee (C. Hodges)

Hodges thanked several people and announced that C. White is the new president-elect.

Review of Proposed Revision of CPR Document (D. Patterson)

Patterson noted that he had distributed by e-mail both the report and a new flow chart. He then briefly reviewed the proposed changes in the process of cumulative reviews. R. Roberts said he foresees difficulty reaching a consensus on a review committee and asked what happens if it is not achieved. Patterson said it is expected that each committee would work until it does reach a consensus. M. Moffett said she believes it is marvelous that the five-year process will end; there was wide agreement. Birdwell asked for comment on the fact a dean could go against the consensus of a faculty committee. Patterson noted that a dean who takes such action will be forced to make his or her case before several groups. B. Levy compared overturning a committee's decision to overturning a faculty decision on tenure. In response to a question from Malia,

Patterson said he believes the faculty member being reviewed would have access to all documents generated. The document then was approved with two negative votes.

Special Recognitions of Senators and Senate Leaders

Combs next thanked all chairpersons and asked them to stand and be recognized. He then thanked the following individuals: T. Miller, who is moving to another institution; Greenberg, who is past-president; thirty-two senators who are rotating off the Faculty Senate; O. Stephens, the parliamentarian who is completing his service. Stephens received a plaque and a copy of a resolution from the Faculty Senate thanking him; others received citations and small gifts.

NEW BUSINESS

Gross noted that the Budget Committee passed a resolution (distributed at the meeting). It puts the Faculty Senate on record as supporting the idea that the University comply with the Faculty Handbook and the AAUP Policy Statement on the Discontinuance of Program or Department Not Mandated by Financial Exigency when implementing any future academic program cuts. The provost already had stated his support for this idea. The resolution follows:

Whereas Provost Crabtree has affirmed his support for shared governance, asserting that "administrators must make every effort to involve faculty at critical stages of the decision making process," and...

Whereas the UTK Faculty Handbook (section 2.14.3) Procedures for Revocation of Tenure, part 3 states that '[e]xtradorinary circumstances' may involve (a) financial exigency or (b) major program discontinuation. In either case the termination of tenured faculty may take place only after sustained deliberation and discussion of the exigency or of the program change. Such deliberations and discussions must include the faculty of the University through appropriate committees of the Faculty Senate, of the college, and of the department involved."

Whereas, Provost Crabtree affirmed the importance of upholding both the Faculty Handbook and AAUP principles regarding discontinuation of academic programs.

Therefore be it resolved that the UTK Faculty Senate support the Provost in working to ensure the University of Tennessee comply with both the Faculty Handbook and the AAUP Policy Statement on the Discontinuance of Program or Department Not Mandated by Financial Exigency when implementing any future academic program cuts.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Lyons then presented Combs and his assistant, Jonathan Neal, framed pictures in recognition of their work during the year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sam Jordan, Secretary