

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
April 7, 2003

Those absent were: Hamparsum Bozdogan, Paula Carney, Loren Crabtree, Marianne Custer, Sylvia Davis, Barbara Dewey, Tom Doherty, Susan Hamilton, Marion Hansen, Leslie Hickok, Wes Hines, Heather Hirschfeld, Majid Keyhani, Dukwon Kim, Ken Kimble, Baldwin Lee, Jeff MacCabe, William MacMorran, Tamara Miller, Jan Musfeldt, Bonnie Ownley, Robert Perrin, W. Tim Rogers, Gilya Schmidt*, John Shumaker, Pamela Small, Susan Smith, Marlys Staudt, Bruce Tonn, Esteban Walker, Dan Ward, Jan Williams, Rick Williams

*Guest: Charles Reynolds for Gilya Schmidt

F. Michael Combs, Presiding

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's Report (M. Combs)

Combs welcomed everyone, especially guests, visitors and substitutes for senators; he asked that substitutes sign a sheet available at the meeting. Combs then noted that today's meeting is being web cast and said that the meeting April 28 also would be web cast. He then asked for and received permission to make the IT Policy report the first task force report.

Combs next confirmed with the secretary that there appeared to be a quorum present. He then noted that Provost Crabtree could not be present today, but will hold an open discussion on the state of the campus; it will start 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, 2003, in the UC Auditorium.

Combs noted next that there will be a tour of the new University Recreation Building at 3:45 Tuesday, April 15, 2003. The tour was arranged by the Benefits Committee. Intentions to participate should be reported to B. Ownley by April 11, 2003. Combs also reported that the Council of UT Senate Presidents will meet in Nashville this Thursday with President Shumaker to discuss system-level concerns. He then described some actions that will help meetings run smoothly.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of March 3, 2003, were approved with the change in line six of paragraph four under President's Report from "system input into budget hearings" to "faculty input into system budget hearings." Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of March 3, 2003, were approved with the change in line six of paragraph four under President's Report from "system input into budget hearings" to "faculty input into system budget hearings." Minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting of March 24, 2003, were considered next. B. Lyons objected to the wording relating to Executive Committee approval of eight of the ten recommendations concerning Faculty Senate structure and effectiveness. After a brief discussion, Combs suggested deleting the first sentence of the third paragraph of the President's Report. The revised minutes then were accepted.

SENATE BYLAWS

Bylaws changes to be voted on (F. Weber)

Weber noted that the proposed changes were distributed with the agenda for the last meeting. In response to questions from Lyons and D. Birdwell, Weber said that the Educational Policy Committee would deal with matters such as the general education policy and non-curricular matters from the Undergraduate Council. The proposed changes then were approved almost unanimously.

Bylaws changes for first reading (G. Graber)

Graber described the major elements of the proposed changes to the senate structure. He worked from the final report of the Committee on Senate Structure and Effectiveness (distributed with the agenda). Gross said he believes there are many admirable features in the proposed changes and asked how the new number of 49 senators was selected. Graber responded that the number is not part of the current proposals and then explained that it came from the idea of halving the current senate. In response to another question, Graber said that the expectation is that a future vice president normally would be elected president for the next year. That comment elicited several questions about why anyone would oppose a vice president in an election for president and a comment from Birdwell that he did not believe the proposal about changing from a president-elect to a vice president was approved in the special lunch-time meetings of the Executive Committee to discuss the proposed changes.

W. Lyons then described some advantages of the present system and Weber responded by saying that he had been in organizations with presidents-elect that the membership felt should not become presidents. T. Diacon said he does not believe the Faculty Senate is broken and needs fixing. Gross noted that the size of the Executive Committee is a problem now. T.-W. Wang suggested that there needs to be a group to decide whether a president runs for a second term. In response to another question Combs said that each proposal would be voted on separately at the April 28, 2003, meeting. K. Greenberg then asked whether the faculty at large were to be informed about the proposed changes. Graber said that faculty have been informed that the proposed changes are on the web and asked to make comments. The current bylaws do not allow a faculty vote on the proposed changes.

Combs ended the discussion and reminded senators that they need to inform their faculty colleagues about the proposed changes and to solicit their comments.

COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL REPORTS

Nominating Committee Report (C. Hodges)

Hodges said that ballots for president-elect have been sent out. She then invited the two candidates, C. White and F. Weber, to make brief statements. White said she would like to see some structures in place that would help the senate operate proactively rather than reactively. Weber said he believes we need to define what we think shared governance is and to set up structures to make shared governance happen. He also mentioned that he believes temporary employees should be given a voice. There were no questions for the candidates.

Combs noted that there is a report from the Professional Development Committee in the agenda packet. There were no comments, so he moved next to the Teaching Council Report. R. Strange called special attention to item 5 in the report (distributed with the agenda) which concerns the projected transition fall, 2004, to entirely online student evaluations. He talked about the three major points in item 5 and encouraged the Faculty Senate to take a stand on the proposed transition

next year. In response to a question from Wang, Strange said that next year's senate should consider item 2 about re-instating the Teaching/Learning Center.

TASK FORCE REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

IT Policy (F. Weber)

Weber noted that a revised statement on personal use of UT IT resources has been added to UT Fiscal Policy 135 and has been circulated; it describes some acceptable uses for certain scholarly activities that may result in personal gain. Weber then noted that T. Davies has distributed a memorandum describing concerns with the anti-privacy implications of the Acceptable Use Policy and with use restrictions. Weber said he believes the latter concern has been addressed with the revised statement and that all matters concerning privacy and confidentiality aspects of IT resources have now been deleted from the proposed policy (and will be worked on further).

Birdwell distributed a motion at the meeting; it concerned the naming of OIT in the proposed policy as "the official provider of wireless infrastructure on the campus." His lengthy motion discusses problems with radio interference, states that student needs will always come first and calls for other user problems to be settled by compromise. It also states that the policy will apply to upgrades from 802.11b to 802.11a wireless networks and notes that there is no secure wireless transmission and gives guidelines for the use of secure protocols and encryption. The motion provides wording to replace the fourth paragraph on page 5 of the IT Task Force report. In response to a comment from Gross, Birdwell amended his motion to include deletion of the last paragraph on page 3 of the report; it concerns encryption rights and encryption keys. The amended motion was approved.

After further discussion, T. Davies noted that the first paragraph under "Compliance" on page 8 of the report also should be removed. B. Thayer-Bacon then asked that the changes be made and a clean, revised copy of the proposal policy be provided to the senators before further consideration at the next meeting. M. Moffett agreed and it was decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Budget Committee (L. Gross)

Gross cautioned everyone to look carefully at the 2002-2003 Faculty Salary Data Report and especially to note the years for which data is given.

Committee to Revise the Faculty Handbook (M. Moffett)

Moffett called attention to Attachment H to the agenda, which is part of new Faculty Handbook text to be considered later. It concerns departmental governance.

Combs turned again to the Final Report from the Task Force on Senate Structure and Effectiveness. Wang expressed concern about a smaller number of senators handling the same amount of work. Graber explained that non-senators would be involved in the work.

OTHER REPORTS

Committee on Committee Progress Report (B. Lyons)

Lyons reported that most of the committee's matters have been handled already.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Malia asked why there is not more discussion about impacts of the budget problems. She noted two recent newspaper articles reporting reductions in staff and programs and a report from her

dean about plans to eliminate a significant number of programs. Gross said the Budget Committee has heard about some aspects of reductions. In particular, comments from the president about cuts in positions relate to the system, not this campus alone. He noted that the provost has been very open and receptive to faculty input on these matters, but the president has not been open at all. Thayer-Bacon said she learned in a meeting that decisions about reductions would be made this summer without faculty input. A. Mayhew said she does not believe there will be any reduction decisions made during the summer. It was noted that the provost could be asked about these matters at his open discussion next week and M. Rogge suggested that this matter should be discussed at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sam Jordan, Secretary