

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
MINUTES  
March 3, 2003

Those absent were: Hamparsum Bozdogan, Paula Carney, Marianne Custer, Marlene Davis, Sylvia Davis, Barbara Dewey, Tom Doherty, Ann Fairhurst, Bruce Fisher, Jens Gregor\*, Marion Hansen, Leslie Hickok, Heather Hirschfeld, Roxanne Hovland, Majid Keyhani, Dukwon Kim, Ken Kimble, Laverne Lindsey, Jeff MacCabe, William MacMorran, Gary McDaniel, Tamara Miller, Marian Moffett, Trevor Moulden, Wayne Mulkey, Jan Musfeldt, Bill Nugent, W. Tim Rogers, Mary Rogge, Gilya Schmidt\*, John Shumaker, Pamela Small, Marlys Staudt, Richard Strange, Bruce Tonn, Esteban Walker, Dan Ward, Candace White

\*Guests: Charles Reynolds for Gilya Schmidt; Micah Beck for Jens Gregor

F. Michael Combs, Presiding

F. Michael Combs called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### President's Report (M. Combs)

Combs talked about his efforts to save time at meetings and to save paper by using e-mail and the web. He then confirmed with the secretary that a quorum was present.

Combs next said that he would keep faculty senators informed about plans for a new School of Public Health, the proposed business incubator, and system issues that the Council of Senate Presidents is discussing. He then announced that the Executive Committee has established a special task force, the Faculty Senate Information Technology Advisory Committee, to be chaired by G. Whitney.

Combs announced that the provost has agreed to add a feedback loop to keep the faculty informed about this spring's evaluations of administrators. He also reported that C. Hodges will soon present nominees for Faculty Senate President-Elect and that the Chancellorship Transition Committee will provide its recommendations to the Faculty Senate Council for input.

Combs then discussed the search for a new director of the men's athletic program and introduced S. Leonard, the new Executive Vice President. Leonard noted that a letter about the athletic director search from President Shumaker had been distributed at the meeting. He then said that he would stress the theme that collaboration will make better use of the U. T. System's resources. In particular, he expects the new School of Public Health to be crucial in this effort. In response to a request from L. Gross that there be faculty input into system budget hearings as there has been in the past, Leonard said he would look into the matter. In response to a question from S. Smith, Leonard said that accreditation is a university-wide matter, not something for individual programs, and that he would involve Smith in the process. K. Greenberg expressed the hope that Leonard would be open about the budget cutting process and he said he would.

D. Birdwell asked about plans for information technology changes. Leonard responded that it is too early to have plans, but that he knows that many of the systems are outdated. He believes that there is a solution that will be better than what UT has today. Standardization will be a major theme of the reworking; faculty input will be included in the process.

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of February 3, 2003, were approved without change.

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting of February 17, 2003, were accepted with the change that Sylvia Davis was not present.

## SENATE BYLAWS

### Bylaws changes to be voted on (M. Combs)

Combs noted that the relevant proposed changes were read at the previous meeting. Item I dealing with alternates was considered first. T. Diacon spoke against the motion on the grounds that alternates might not be informed about all the matters that could arise. M. Anderson said she believed that allowing today's proxies to vote if the recommendations are approved would violate Robert's Rules of Order. G. Graber responded that proxies here today may have been elected in anticipation of the proposal's being approved today. C. Reynolds noted that he was unanimously drafted by his department to attend today's meeting. Combs then noted that not having voting proxies could lead to doing business with only a few senators. Diacon then argued further against proxies and B. Lyons responded by saying that the proposals deal with elected alternates. The motion then was approved by a vote of 30 to 21.

Item II concerning membership of the Athletics Committee was considered next. Gross moved that the proposal be amended to make the proposed additional *ex-officio* members be non-voting members. Birdwell seconded the motion to amend. Diacon spoke in support of the amendment. The amendment was approved by a vote of 23 to 20. The amended Item II then was approved overwhelmingly.

Finally, bylaws changes concerning changing the Legislative Committee to the Government Relations Committee were approved.

### Bylaws changes for first reading (F. Weber)

Changes from the Educational Policy Committee (distributed with agenda) were briefly reviewed by Weber. Graber asked and Weber confirmed that posting items on a website constitutes "distributing" the items. Birdwell commented that senators should receive e-mails announcing that the items are available on the web and giving the appropriate URLs. In response to a question from S. Smith, Weber said that the process of dealing with distant-learning proposals and technology courses remains as it is. A. Mayhew noted that four separate faculty groups read and approve curricular changes before they go to the Educational Policy Committee. Birdwell responded by saying that the Educational Policy Committee has made changes in what it received. Weber then noted that he sees the proposed changes as improving the situation. J. Coddington then spoke in favor of the proposals, because he believes they return curricular responsibility to the faculty. P. Phillips agreed.

## COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL REPORTS

### Budget Committee (L. Gross)

Gross thanked those who attended the open forum about the Research Foundation. He believes faculty comments caused changes to be made in the original proposal. He then reported that the faculty salary survey is being prepared for distribution and said that the budget hearings are going well.

### Instruction with Technology Sub-Committee Report (F. Weber)

Weber reviewed the proposals to modify the Manual for Faculty Evaluation. (The report was distributed with the agenda.). M. Harmon noted that "Consideration may also be given to faculty that ..." should be changed to "Consideration also may be given to faculty who ..." This change was accepted as a friendly amendment. Birdwell moved that the proposal be accepted with the additional change from "instructional technologies" and "innovative technologies" to "instructional methods and technologies." The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Senate/Provost IT Policy Review Task Force Report (F. Weber)

Weber reviewed the report (distributed with the agenda). It was decided to have a second reading at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

#### Presentation of the "Principles for Emerging System of Scholarly Publishing" (W. Morgan)

Morgan moved that the Faculty Senate endorse the principles. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Resolution relating to UT Fiscal Policy 135 (L. Gross)

Gross described the proposal to have President Combs send a letter to President Shumaker asking him to have the words "personal gain or" removed from the policy. The motion was seconded. Weber quickly read a proposed policy clarification from the General Counsel's Office. Gross said he would withdraw his motion if the clarification were added to the policy. There seemed to be an agreement from administrators that the clarification would be added.

#### Provost's Report (L. Crabtree)

Crabtree said the permanent base reduction for the Knoxville campus is \$15,018,800 with an additional amount to come from Agriculture. The total for the system is \$38 million. He then said that the cuts necessarily mean a smaller institution and that the administration already is quite thin. The goal is a leaner, but better, institution.

Crabtree noted that there are excellent candidates for the deanships in the College of Engineering and the College of Arts & Sciences. He also said that the budget hearings are going well and that the Life of the Mind program will have new students reading The Color of Water next summer.

In response to a question about the status of tenured faculty in eliminated units, Crabtree said that the Faculty Handbook says that faculty are tenured in a department, but he does not care for that approach. B. Lyons said he wondered whether the January raise should be rescinded. Crabtree said he would not do so; faculty already are not paid what they should be.

In response to another question, Crabtree said early retirement programs have been discussed, but there is a fear that the finest faculty would be lost. In response to a question from Weber, Crabtree said that at this stage there is no consideration of duplicative programs and weak programs across the state. In response to a question from S. DiMaria, Crabtree said the report on department heads/chairs should go to the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee; he was positive about the report.

#### Committee on Senate Structure and Effectiveness (P. Phillips)

Phillips reported on what has been done and asked that comments be submitted.

#### Committee on Department Heads/Chairs (M. Combs)

Combs thanked the committee for its fine report. M. Anderson said more faculty need to know where it is. C. Cox said his faculty has concerns about the report and would like to have an open conversation on the report. Others agreed. Combs said he would try to arrange such a meeting.

Discussion of the Proposed UT Vision Statement and Mission Statement (M. Combs)

There was a comment that there is no mention of UTSI in the proposed document.

**NEW BUSINESS**

J. Malia asked whether the athletics programs report only to the system. Gross explained what happens and noted the lack of reports to the campus from other units. Several expressed their displeasure with the situation.

S. Smith noted that there is little opportunity for faculty to comment on the recent campus transportation and parking changes. Combs said he would try to arrange a discussion with P. Scheurer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sam Jordan, Secretary