

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
November 17, 2003

Those absent were: Mary Albrecht, James Bailey, Tom Burman, Chris Cox, Loren Crabtree, Sylvia Davis, Tom Doherty, Rajan Ganguly, David Golden, William Hamel, Susan Hamilton, Marion Hansen, Wes Hines, Joe Iannelli, Ed Jepson, Barbara Kaye, Desiree Kennedy, Majid Keyhani, Dukwon Kim, Jon Levin, Julia Malia, Sibyl Marshall, Jan Musfeldt, Bill Nugent, Mary Rogge, Dileep Sachan, Pamela Small, George Smith, Marlys Staudt, LTC Robert Walsh, Dan Ward, Rick Williams

*Alternate Senators: P. Michael Davidson for David Golden, Ed Perfect for Rick Williams, Belle Upadhyaya for Chris Cox, Bill Morris for George Smith, Laura Jolly for Julia Malia, Raj Raman for Susan Hamilton, Margaret Morris for Barbara Kaye, Hampton Liggett for Dukwon Kim

B. Lyons called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of Quorum (S. Jordan)

Jordan confirmed that it appeared a quorum was present.

President's Report (B. Lyons)

Lyons reported that he had assigned an additional one or two torches to each item on the Senate Scorecard, except for the living-wage item. He then reported that Charles Feigerle is replacing M. Keyhani as chair of the Graduate Council. Lyons next reported that the nondiscrimination resolution is being supported by the chancellor and the president. He next noted that the Executive Committee will meet 9:00 a.m.—noon, December 15 in Arena Dining CD and the Senate will meet Friday, January 9, 2004, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Shiloh Room of the UC. He then reported on the policy that food and drink (other than water) are prohibited from lecture rooms. He said he supports the policy, but will be urging the administration to end the outsourcing of janitorial services. Lyons then discussed two resolutions to be considered later: one concerning banning the sale of tobacco products on campus and the other concerning the Review and Redirection Process. He noted that the chancellor supports a resolution from the Review and Redirection Task Force (distributed at the meeting). Lyons expressed appreciation to L. Gross and other faculty on the task force who are asking tough questions.

President-Elect's Report (C. White)

White reported that 432 faculty completed a survey on the Web about the Faculty Senate Newsletter and related matters. She then briefly reviewed the results of the survey. The Newsletter was not a primary source of information for almost all of the faculty who participated in the survey. White said she believes the caucuses can be an effective way of communicating. She proposed using the delivery system best suited to each type of item. In particular, she proposed using a printed "Issues Alert" only for disseminating policies and other critical information. Some other information could be sent electronically to a select few and then those individuals could print and distribute copies to faculty in their areas. She encouraged Senators to print the November issue of the Newsletter from the Web and distribute copies of it.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of October 20, 2003, were approved without change.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Faculty Handbook Task Force (M. Moffett)

Moffett called attention to a handout distributed at the meeting. It provides a rewording for Chapter 1, page 5, lines 16-18, which reads as follows:

“While all departmental constituencies have input into the discussion, only the tenure-track and tenured faculty members conduct a confidential vote for their choice, unless non-tenure-track faculty are otherwise permitted by departmental bylaws to vote in department head selections.”

L. Essif asked how the task force decided to make the addition to I. 6, p. 5 of Chapter 1, which says that for head searches the dean selects all departmental representatives on the committee. Moffett responded in part that there are university rules from the Office of Equity and Diversity that govern such committees.

B. Glenn asked whether the list of academic officers in the list that starts on I. 26, p. 8, Chapter 1 is exhaustive. Moffett said it consists of the usual administrators, but B. Ownley noted that the Vice-President for Agriculture should be included and Moffett suggested changing “Chancellor” to “Chief Academic Officers and their staffs” in I. 27. With this change, Chapters 1 and 2 were then approved.

Moffett turned next to Chapter 3. G. Schroedl noted that the lettering in item 5 of p. 2, Chapter 3, needs to be corrected. S. Hamilton expressed concern about the change from “have” to “achieve and maintain” in items 3 and 5 on II. 22, 23, p. 3, Chapter 3, where it is stated what associate professors are expected to do. It was decided to use “to have achieved and to maintain.” Concern also was expressed about the use of “to be accomplished teachers” in I. 11, p. 3, Chapter 3; suggested changes here or elsewhere should be sent to the task force.

Essif asked whether the wording in the first paragraph of Section 3.9, might not include a reference to faculty bylaws. Moffett said such a reference would be worked into the paragraph. White then asked when faculty might make a recommendation to the board that tenure should reside in the institution. Moffett countered that it is not clear that tenure should reside in the institution and noted that tenure guarantees academic freedom, not employment. She then encouraged Senators to email any additional concerns.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Teaching Council (B. Lee)

Lee summarized the memorandum from the Council that was distributed with the agenda. A major concern with moving the student evaluation system from paper to on-line is that participation is likely to drop from 80% to about 30%. Many students view the current system as ineffective and irrelevant. Faculty seem to have somewhat similar attitudes. Faculty and student interests seem to have little overlap, although both groups believe there is value in student evaluations. B. Dunne cautioned that there are components to evaluating faculty teaching other than student evaluations and the Council should not try to have student evaluation be all things. M. Harmon asserted that there is a correlation between course evaluations and grade inflation. Graber noted that the current system from the University of Washington was adopted in part because with it there was not a correlation between evaluations and expected grades.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Revision for the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee (B. Ownley)

Lyons noted that we are having only a first reading today. There was no discussion.

Resolution Banning Tobacco Sales on Campus (M. Harmon)

Because there had already been extensive attention to the issue on the Senate Listserver, Lyons asked whether anyone's opinion would be changed by further discussion. No one responded. Lyons then asked Harmon to read the resolution and Harmon did so. The resolution was seconded. B. Thayer-Bacon asked why the resolution was before the Senate, as it had not been approved by the Executive Committee. B. Lyons indicated that any Senator has the right to bring a motion for consideration by the Senate. Lyons called the question. The resolution failed 30 to 28.

Resolution on Review and Redirection Process (W. Morgan)

Morgan read the resolution (distributed with agenda). The motion was seconded by Glenn. Moffett moved to separate the two "resolved" statements. Her motion was seconded. The motion to separate was approved by a voice vote. Gross then questioned how this body can determine criteria to guide the process of program review. M. Anderson then spoke in favor. Morgan added that it seems to him that it is the Senate's responsibility to determine those criteria. Lyons then suggested ways that criteria could be determined by the Faculty Senate for the January 9th meeting. Morgan accepted a friendly amendment to change "determined" to "approved." B. Thayer-Bacon and Lee then noted that "determined" is more in line with shared governance. Lyons said he thought the task force would be receptive to suggestions about the criteria for this body. Glenn then noted that the first "whereas" clause uses "determining" and argued that the first part of the resolution should use "determined." Morgan agreed and the original version of the first part of the resolution was then approved by a voice vote.

Morgan next spoke in support of the second part of the resolution. He said that in the past the administration has suggested what it intends to do about faculty in any program eliminated and this part of the resolution is intended to say that it is the Senate's expectation that the administration will do those things. Morgan agreed to change "faculty positions" to "faculty members." Dunne then noted that "eliminated" might be changed and Harmon suggested "released from employment" as a replacement. Morgan agreed. Gross said that the two faculty on the task force voted in favor of this part of the resolution and all others voted against. He also said that some administrators have said that faculty and their lines will be moved, so that there are mixed messages. In response to a comment, White pointed out that some of the criteria came from APEC, which did have faculty representation. Moffett noted that the alternative to the current process is opportunistic cutting of positions, for example those freed up by deaths or retirements. Glenn then note that the University of Maryland made deep cuts without ending employment of faculty. The motion then was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sam Jordan, Secretary