

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
October 20, 2003

Those absent were: Kendra Albright, James Bailey, David Barnaby, Bruce Bomar, Loren Crabtree, Joan Creasia, Sylvia Davis, Tom Doherty, Susan Hamilton, Marion Hansen, Heather Hirschfeld, Joe Iannelli, Syed Islam, Ed Jepson, Dennie Kelley, Majid Keyhani, Dukwon Kim, John Koontz, William Lyons, Marian Moffett, Deborah Murphy, Jan Musfeldt, Bill Nugent, Peggy Pierce, Massimo Pigliucci, John Preston, W. Tim Rogers, Pamela Small, George Smith, Marlys Staudt, LTC Robert Walsh, Dan Ward, Jan Williams, Rick Williams

Beauvais Lyons, Presiding

B. Lyons called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of Quorum (S. Jordan)

Jordan confirmed that it appeared a quorum was present.

President's Report (B. Lyons)

Lyons said he would like to take up a resolution on sexual orientation at UTK under New Business and move New Business to immediately after Minutes.

Lyons then reported that contributions to the Campus Chest Campaign are running behind schedule this year and encouraged everyone to participate. He then turned to the Faculty Senate Scorecard and reported that P. Höyng will serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Council and G. Saylor will serve on the Search Committee. He therefore awarded an additional torch to the presidential search item. He also awarded additional torches to the topics of professional leave, general education policy, and faculty handbook revision, and effective committee work. He did not award an additional torch to the living wage effort.

Lyons then noted that a handout, titled Program Review and Redirection, was available at the meeting and he said A. Mayhew will discuss it further. He then noted that a SACS review will occur relatively soon and expressed his hope that faculty would be involved in a significant way.

Chancellor's Report (A. Mayhew for L. Crabtree)

Mayhew reported that Crabtree attended a meeting in Atlanta last week on greater academic cooperation among the SEC universities and was quite enthused about the matter. She then reported that the faculty professional development policy is posted on the chancellor's web site. Departments must identify eligible faculty by November 3, and forward the names of those recommended by December 1. Mayhew then turned to the document on program review and redirection. The governor's recent request that all state units tell how they would deal with a 5% cut for fiscal year 2005 makes the review process even more important than it already was. A final list of programs for full consideration will be announced by mid-November. She stressed that the process would involve the appropriate senate committees and would comply with the Faculty Handbook. The chancellor's recommendations will be given to the Board of Trustees at its June, 2004, meeting. Mayhew emphasized that programs will be reviewed, so that a program might be ended, but the department in which the program resides continue.

Mayhew then responded to a question from L. Gross by saying that the reorganization of the campus and the system still has not been worked out. She then answered another question from Gross by saying that she does not know how many professional leaves will be awarded next year, but that departments and colleges will provide the majority of the funding. In response to a question from J. Rehder, she said that the new program is based on the course-banking programs used by some departments and colleges. Regarding the review and redirection process, she said that one should not be concerned by the inclusion of research centers and institutes in the definition of programs; only a non-performing center or institute will be challenged.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of September 22, 2003, were approved with the deletion of Teresa Berry from the list of absent senators, since she no longer is a senator.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution on Sexual Orientation at UTK (E. Sutherland)

Sutherland read the resolution, copies of which were available at the meeting. It "encourages Chancellor Crabtree to work toward inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the University's non-discrimination policy, and to take other steps as warranted toward ensuring compliance with this amended policy." W. Hart reported that two-thirds of his department does not support the resolution. Others spoke in favor of the resolution. It was reported that the Colleges of Law, Social Work and Nursing have been challenged by their accrediting agencies over the lack of "sexual orientation" in the non-discrimination policy. The resolution was approved.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Faculty Handbook Revision Task Force (K. Greenberg and W. Dunne for M. Moffett)

Greenberg briefly reviewed Chapter One. She noted that suggestions for changes should be made soon, so that a revised draft can be proposed for the second reading at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Greenberg reported that concern has been expressed about the lack of detail concerning faculty responsibility in item 2 on page 6 of Chapter One. There was consensus that the committee should reconsider this matter and be more specific.

Greenberg then turned to the question of which constituencies should be involved in and be included in votes concerning the selection of heads. There was considerable support for leaving decisions about such matters to colleges and departments. Greenberg next asked about feelings concerning terms for department heads. Some favored terms and others did not want limits for heads.

Dunne then briefly described Chapter Two. No one expressed concern about having only the three categories of teaching, research and service for faculty responsibility. M. Harmon expressed regret that a listing of rights in lines 30, 31, and 32 on page 1 of Chapter Two was deleted. It was recommended that the list be retained, but words indicating that the list is not all-inclusive be added. M. Combs spoke in favor of including in "service" activities that are not directly related to one's professional expertise. B. Glenn spoke against including such matters, since this section defines faculty responsibilities. A straw poll then indicated support for the current wording concerning what constitutes service. Gross spoke against retaining line 1, page 3 of Chapter Two which says that faculty members should participate in university governance.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Undergraduate Council (L. Jolly)

Jolly briefly reviewed the General Education Proposal. She noted that lists of courses in the proposal are preliminary and the proposal calls for ongoing review of more courses to be included. Gross expressed concern about the second sentence under II. Communicating Orally, which says, "The well-educated should be able to speak... ." Jolly suggested that a footnote could address those who cannot speak. J. Malia said she feels a footnote is not sufficient and that the sentence should be rewritten. It was taken as a friendly amendment that the revised sentence would allow for those who are emotionally or physically unable to speak and that the clause in quotes a few lines above would be deleted. J. Heminway suggested that signing should be included and recommended that there be a legal review of the wording. In response to a question about the anticipated degree of flexibility in accepting substitutions for the lists in the various categories, Jolly said there would be a university-wide substitution committee to deal with such questions. L. Gay asked about differences between college lists and university-level lists of courses. D. Cox responded that all requirements must be met, but one course could be used to meet both a college and a university requirement. G. Graber moved to table the motion until more complete lists of courses are available. There was a second. Graber then said that he and others do not feel the process for adding courses used during the summer or the process used so far this fall has worked sufficiently well and expressed a desire to have more complete lists before voting. M. Albrecht spoke against tabling, since the lists will always be changing. Others also expressed concern about tabling the motion. In response to a negative comment about having a central group deciding about substitutions, Jolly said that two advising centers had requested a central decision body. Graber's motion then was voted down. Gross then asked whether the Undergraduate Catalog would contain information on how a student should attempt to obtain a waiver concerning the requirements. Jolly said it would. The General Education Proposal then was approved.

Undergraduate and Graduate Council Minutes

Minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 24, 2003, and of the Undergraduate Council meeting of April 29, 2003, were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sam Jordan, Secretary