

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
MINUTES  
September 22, 2003

Those absent were: Dave Bemis, Bruce Bomar, Joan Creasia, Marianne Custer, Sylvia Davis, Barbara Dewey, Tom Doherty, Susan Hamilton, Marion Hansen, Ralph Harvey, Joe Iannelli, Syed Isalm, Ed Jepson, Dennie Kelley, Deseriee Kennedy, Majid Keyhani, Dukwon Kim, William Lyons, Maribeth Manoff\*, Bill Nugent, Peggy Pierce, Massimo Pigliucci, Bart Rohrbach, W. Tim Rogers, Pamela Small, Marlys Staudt, John Waller, LTC Robert Walsh, Dan Ward, Jan Williams, Rick Williams

\*Guest: Mary Ellen Starmer for Maribeth Manoff

Beauvais Lyons, Presiding

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 noted that the agenda now comes with holes for a three-ring binder. He then sought a second for adding a matter under New Business. There was a second and adding the call for the Executive Committee to handle selection of a faculty member to serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Council and nomination of two faculty members for the Presidential Search Committee was approved.

Lyons next asked C. White to read a resolution honoring and thanking M. Combs for serving as Faculty Senate President last year. The resolution was seconded and approved unanimously. A framed copy was presented to Combs, who thanked the senate. The resolution is as follows:

*The University of Tennessee  
Faculty Senate*

*WHEREAS, Professor F. Michael Combs is a highly respected colleague, teacher, and musician; and*

*WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2002-2003 academic year; and*

*WHEREAS, through his leadership of the Senate, he has enhanced relationships between the Senate and the other parts of the University community, never failing to act in a true spirit of collegiality and good will; and*

*WHEREAS, he has provided direction to the Senate Executive Committee and contributed to the accomplishments of the various committees of the Senate; and*

*WHEREAS, he has effectively served the Senate and the faculty well in the role of a diplomatic spokesperson; and*

*WHEREAS, he has worked tirelessly to advance the welfare of faculty, staff, and students of the University.*

*THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Tennessee Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to*

*Professor F. Michael Combs*

*for his outstanding leadership and devoted service to the Senate and the University of Tennessee; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be presented to F. Michael Combs and that the Resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on September 22, 2003.*

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*G. Samuel Jordan  
Secretary*

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*Beauvais Lyons  
President*

Lyons next asked the Faculty Senate officers to stand and thanked them in advance for their work. He then called attention to applications for membership in AAUP, which were available at the meeting.

Lyons turned next to his scorecard for the Faculty Senate. The scorecard includes items concerning faculty membership on presidential search committees, faculty professional development leaves, general education requirements, reforming the Faculty Handbook, effective committee work, and the living wage campaign. Lyons awarded one, two or three flaming torches to each effort. He then presented his membership check for United Campus Workers to S. Hicks, president of United Campus Workers and encouraged other faculty to support their work to represent staff on campus.

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

Crabtree reported that this year seems to be a good year for the students. He also said the new professional leave plan will be implemented soon and that forms are being created for requesting professional development leaves.

Crabtree next discussed the Knoxville campus. In particular, he said that the campus does an excellent job with its core mission. He noted that the academic quality of the freshmen class is the best ever and that national rankings of the institution remain high. He also pointed out that the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center has its first symposium tomorrow; it concerns the topic of embedded journalists and the Iraq war. Crabtree commented further that the University of Tennessee has a black eye now, so it cannot be inappropriately humble about its positive features. He then said it is important to improve the appearance of the campus. Potential students who choose not to come often cite the dirtiness and urban nature of the campus. He noted that food and drink are being taken into the new classrooms and said that faculty must lead by example in this matter.

In addition to the 9% budget cut from last year, Crabtree reported that the lower enrollment caused the campus a further \$6 million reduction. He said enrollment will be increased and noted that the lottery scholarships will definitely help enrollment.

Crabtree then noted that the Faculty Senate is an example of indirect democracy. He said that it is the Senate's duty to oversee the entire university. He also asked that the Senate focus on key issues, which he identified as the presidential search, handbook revision, general education reform and, possibly, program review and redirection. He noted that whether this year is the correct one for the last issue has not been decided.

M. Moffett suggested fixing sidewalks and other surfaces on campus, so that they do not retain water. M. Rogge said she is impressed with the recycling and trolley systems. L. Gross asked whether Crabtree could share anything about reorganization of the campus administration. Crabtree said he has proposed creation of a number of vice-chancellor positions. He noted that research, information technology and human resources are not under budgetary control of the chancellor and he needs to be responsible for the relevant portions of those activities. The research campus needs to be self-governing.

## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the April 28, 2003, Faculty Senate meeting were approved without change.

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### Faculty Handbook Revision Task Force (M. Moffett)

Moffett reported that the revised drafts are now available on the web. Now is the time to make comments, so that word-smithing will not be necessary during a Faculty Senate meeting.

### IT Advisory Task Force (G. Whitney)

Whitney said the task force consists of about 30 faculty and administrators and will have its first meeting September 27 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room in Andy Holt Tower. She noted that items 10 and 12 in the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) were inserted by The Office of General Counsel. The task force will discuss these and other matters, including the use of Social Security Numbers on campus. L. Gross urged deletion of the part of item 12 which allows inspection of a variety of electronic information if the "user has voluntarily made information accessible to the public such as a Web page."

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### Undergraduate Council (L. Jolly)

Jolly reminded everyone that there will be an open forum on the general education proposal this Wednesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m., in the Shiloh Room. Requiring an additional writing course is a major change. Requiring an oral communication course is another major change. The web site for the proposal includes a section for frequently asked questions, such as how one gets a course included in a particular list of acceptable courses for meeting a particular requirement.

Jolly emphasized that the policy will be a dynamic one. Gross noted that most students actually will take two four-hour laboratory courses, so that the stated number of 42 hours should be 44 hours. Jolly responded that the word "approximately" is being used. M. Anderson noted that logic courses are no longer listed under Quantitative Reasoning. Jolly responded that anyone interested in adding such courses can apply to have them added. In response to another comment, Jolly said that 100- and 200-level courses and courses without prerequisites are the types of courses expected to be proposed for inclusion.

G. Graber proposed a resolution that the process for the general education proposal from now forward be open with all meetings and other activities widely announced. The resolution passed unanimously. W. Morgan then asked whether the proposal's impact on class enrollments has been studied. Jolly said it had and those applying to have courses included are asked how they would handle enrollments above a certain level. A. Mayhew then noted that there will be virtually no change in enrollment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Resolution For Executive Committee Action (B. Lyons)

Lyons noted that the resolution (distributed at the meeting) should begin with "Be it resolved that the ... ." The resolution calls for the Executive Committee to meet Monday, September 29, to select one faculty member to serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Council and to nominate two faculty members for the Presidential Search Committee. The motion to approve was seconded. Gross asked how the Executive Committee (on which he serves) would make its decisions. Lyons said he would post on the web by Friday afternoon information on the candidates. The Senate list-serve can be used to make comments about the candidates. The question was moved and the resolution was approved unanimously.

M. Harmon then read the following resolution from the Government Relations Committee:

*Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports efforts to obtain an on-campus early voting location for the Spring, 2004, primaries and county elections.*

There was no discussion and the resolution was approved with one negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sam Jordan, Secretary