

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

October 8, 2007

Members present: Denise Barlow, Stephen Blackwell, Toby Boulet, Marianne Breinig, Loren Crabtree, Ruth Darling, Rod Ellis, Lou Gross, Joanne Hall, Joan Heminway, Robert Holub, Suzanne Kurth, India Lane, Beauvais Lyons, Matt Murray, John Nolt, David Patterson, Owen Ragland

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Patterson called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 27, 2007, were approved as corrected: Heminway instead of Hemingway, Spousal/Partner Policy, Title VII not Title VI.

III. REPORTS

President's Report (D. Patterson)

He briefly reported on the good attendance at the Faculty Senate Retreat including the President, Chancellor, Provost, and members of the Board of Trustees. A fuller discussion of the Retreat was scheduled for later in the meeting.

The previous Thursday Patterson attended an event focused on development of the Cherokee Farms. He expressed concern that it appeared to be an event for the media, creating the illusion of input. He pointed out that the website recently created for the Cherokee Farms only mentions the word student once with reference to the student representative on the Task Force. There has been no conveyance of the Cherokee Farms property from the campus to the system.

Patterson indicated that the Faculty Senate Bylaws have been updated to incorporate approved changes and the revised Bylaws are posted on the web. A statement on sexual orientation is now incorporated in position announcements, but there is no statement in the Faculty Handbook. He requested that the Faculty Affairs Committee discuss incorporating a statement in the Handbook.

President Petersen promised to forward the IT@UT Cooperative Study, but Patterson has not received it. More recently, T. Millhorn and R. Levy promised to transmit it. Past President D. Kennedy has not resigned as the rotating faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. The Vice Chair of the Board and C. Mizell have concluded that she would have to resign for the position to be vacated, as she cannot be removed from her position. Patterson plans to send a letter co-signed by other Past Presidents asking her to either resign or attend the Board meetings. If she elects to attend, Patterson would investigate possible travel support.

In the materials distributed with the agenda were letters to President Petersen and the Board of Trustees. The following points were addressed: the current structure is out of line with "best practices," effectively a sixth entity focused on a UT System research agenda is being created, and a call for there to be a restructuring in line with "best practices." Patterson has received no reply.

Chancellor's Report (L. Crabtree)

Meetings that included D. Barlow and D. Millhorn have been held on the issue of campus autonomy. He expressed concern that only minimal progress has been made given that both he and the President will be in Asia before the November Board of Trustees meeting. Some progress has been made on dividing responsibility for the ORNL. There has been no progress on the agricultural and athletic programs, as the system has taken them off the table, as well as formal changes in the structure. Millhorn is reviewing the IT reports.

The campus would like to have the opportunity to manage the logistics associated with the numerous projects underway. The goal is to manage the projects once the system has dealt with all the appropriate bodies, e.g., the state Building Commission. The system appears to want to manage the Cherokee Farms campus. The land has been identified as part of the Knoxville campus by various governing bodies. There is agreement on LEED certification, but not on the level of LEED Certification.

The Chancellor noted the Medieval Semester is going well.

L. Gross brought up the issue of conducting research with business implications. He then asked whether the building sitting empty on the West Campus could be used. Crabtree responded that the system owns it. Several entities contributed funds to it. It appears on the campus inventory. To have people occupy it would require a plan for recovering the costs associated with operating it. Crabtree has proposed to President Petersen that the system operate it.

Gross noted a newspaper article suggested that a professional team might use our football stadium. Crabtree responded that nothing has been brought to him and that to the best of his knowledge the proposal has not gotten off the ground.

Patterson expressed concern about there being only one student and one faculty on the Cherokee Farms Task Force, specifically, whether the issue should be revisited. Crabtree indicated that if the campus is to grow more research space is essential. In his opinion, another research building that would support graduate education, as well as research, could be funded there without counting on increased F & A. How much of that site is suitable for building is yet to be determined though. The current document does not constitute a plan; rather it is more like a hope. He understands the Faculty Senate may develop a resolution requesting that the campus be integrally involved in developing a plan. Patterson noted that the students have identified the need for intramural space. The original plan had athletic space. J. Nolt inquired about long-term risks, i.e., if the plans do not work out, will the campus be liable. Crabtree worries about the corporatization of higher education, i.e., some types of research fit better than others. Our new Vice Chancellor for Research has proposed a model that involves having a successful research operation that draws outside groups. Knoxville Place was built by the UT Foundation. The campus could operate it, depending upon the data. There are physical problems with the building that must be addressed. Nolt observed that the building went up rapidly and it does not look like it is energy efficient. Crabtree responded that our goal is a sustainable campus, but as the building was built by a separate entity it was not built to state standards. Patterson asked if there was a mold problem. Crabtree did not know.

B. Lyons asked how long did the Chancellor envision getting through the current climate. He noted that Crabtree would not be staying forever, but given the current problems it would be difficult to recruit a new leader. Crabtree avowed his commitment to making progress, to push

through to resolution on big issues and stated that he was not planning on going anywhere else--that he would stay as long as it takes. Lyons expressed the belief that the Board of Trustees members were surprised by the negative feedback they received at the retreat and Crabtree concurred.

J. Hall noted that the Cherokee Farms situation seemed to spring up last semester without discussion of its history. Crabtree stated we need a concrete plan. Barlow noted that history may not be the most important consideration as a number of officials have had short tenure with UT and may not be interested in history.

Patterson asked if the financial arrangements between the campus and system were on the table. Crabtree said they were. The system has four sources of revenue: a) a tax on the campuses (Knoxville pays largest amount); b) funding from the state; c) sweep on interest earnings; and d) miscellaneous (e.g., sales of UT paraphernalia). Gross pointed out the "taxes" paid by campuses cannot be found in the budget. Barlow explained that they do not show up because they are transfers.

Provost's Report (R. Holub)

The Provost apologized for not realizing that he had scheduled his class during the time period when the Faculty Senate meets. He reported on the recent retreat for department heads. He realized they were not receiving the training they needed. A session on promotion and tenure has been held and another on budgetary matters will be held this fall. During the spring semester, additional sessions will be held on topics, such as diversity, faculty retention. Patterson expressed support of the program. J. Heminway said it sounded like it would be a good idea to integrate the issues addressed in the sessions with the heads in bylaws. Lyons asked if the materials developed by S. Martin were still in use and the status of the review and reappointment of department heads process, i.e., has the schedule been followed. Holub indicated he would check with Martin about its status. Lyons suggested that when department heads become ineffective or become cut-off from their research or direct contact with students, the question of how to refresh their focus on institutional goals arises. Gross proposed that one thing that keeps people from becoming department heads is the amount of data collection and paperwork that gets dumped on them. Gross requested that any revisions to the Faculty Evaluation Manual be given to the Faculty Affairs Committee early in the process. Gross noted he had heard a number of complaints about the pull back of General Education funds. The Provost explained that in 2006-2007, \$500,000 more was expended than in 2005-2006. He wanted to restore control without having each proposed course subject to his approval. Some courses were not even General Education courses. He decided to fully fund the Basic Skills courses (Mathematics, English and Oral Communication). He decided to allocate the funds to the Colleges based on the 2005-2006 budget, incorporating the 2% and 5% increases. The Colleges are responsible for allocating the funds. S. Kurth asked why the change was being made for spring semester. Holub indicated that the request was made in the fall. The Colleges have known since August. Heminway stated that the Faculty Evaluation Manual has not been adjusted yet. Discussions have occurred with Martin.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Status of UTK IT Management (L. Gross)

Gross presented an IT resolution and asked whether the Executive Committee wanted to send it to the Senate as it expresses a lack of confidence in management. Patterson suggested that there were issues of timing and balance. Would the Senate want to pass resolutions on the

Cherokee Farms and IT situations at the same time? Lyons thought that was a good point and noted that Gross had clearly communicated about the IT problems last year. Gross pointed out that the Senate has received no responses to the IT letters. He agreed that a resolution on the Cherokee Farms was important, but argued there were few facts relevant to that situation, while the IT situation has a strong factual component. Hall understood Patterson's reasons for proposing sequencing, but argued the research implications of the IT situation are overwhelming. M. Murray agreed that the IT situation begged to be addressed, but wondered if the IT issues could be embedded in a complaint about the campus/system relationship and division of responsibility. Hall agreed that it represented a crystallized example of lack of cooperation. Patterson stated the Office of Research has had problematic access to databases, a fact confirmed by Barlow. Nolt opined that the situation represents a lack of confidence, so a resolution of no confidence might be an option. Patterson thought that was a strong step. Blackwell proposed not delaying making the IT resolution, as a smaller expression of no confidence.

Heminway argued that if all issues were rolled together, all of them might be diluted. She supported the idea of getting the issue to the Board of Trustees before its November meeting. Patterson requested action on Gross's resolution. A Cherokee Farms resolution could be developed and then distributed via e-mail for Committee approval. Both resolutions could then be brought to the next Senate meeting. Murray requested that the words "students" and "staff" be added to the IT resolution, for example in paragraph two. Heminway moved and Blackwell seconded a motion to take the resolution to the Senate. Lyons asked whether the Ag Campus was represented on the Executive Committee, as awareness needs to be raised. Gross replied that he tried to address all entities in Knoxville. I. Lane noted that she does not know how much the Ag Campus is affected, as they are on a different system. Patterson sought clarification about the letter he would be expected to send, if the resolution were passed. Heminway proposed changing the layout of the document, so the resolution component would stand out and changing the capitalization. The resolution passed unanimously.

Ombudsperson Best Practices Study (S. Simmons)

Simmons obtained information from 15 peer institutions. Many had full time offices staffed by one or more full time people. Each was affiliated with the International Ombudspersons Association. The Ombudsperson should probably be affiliated with the Chancellor's Office. Patterson stated the Faculty Affairs Committee is responsible for changing the wording the Handbook. He noted that several institutions have Ombudspersons that were not faculty members. He has received no response to his call for someone to serve as interim Ombudsperson. Based on his conversation with K. Greenberg, he believes only one person is waiting for service.

University Faculty Council (B. Lyons)

The Council has met. He will send minutes once they are approved. The Council members engage in frequent conversation. Lyons is serving as Faculty Task Force Coordinator and is pleased with the response he has had.

Athletics Committee (D. Patterson)

K. Misra was unable to attend the meeting. Patterson had distributed his e-mail indicating that the Committee proposed having T. Diacon, M. Hamilton, and J. Cronan address the Faculty Senate spring semester. Patterson postponed action.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Information Technology Committee (M. Breinig)

She noted the organizational ambiguity is frustrating for the OIT staff, as well. The Committee met recently and developed a resolution that will be sent to Patterson for distribution to the Executive Committee. The Information Technology Committee would like the support of the Executive Committee, but in any case plans to bring the resolution forward to the Senate at the next meeting.

Rita Sanders Geier Resolution (D. Patterson)

In response to a suggestion, Patterson invited Rita Sanders Geier to the October 22 Faculty Senate meeting. Patterson had distributed a resolution of recognition. The resolution was moved and second. The motion passed unanimously.

Knoxville Place (S. Blackwell)

Meetings have been held with various parties. The engineering study will be examined, as well as the financial aspects.

Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee (R. Ellis)

Our peer institutions have locations that foster diversity—safe places. The Committee proposes that one be created for our campus. The Committee also proposes that the Chancellor appoint a task force and that it follow a schedule that would lead to the creation of such a location by fall 2008. Patterson inquired if other parties were currently working on the issue. Ellis indicated A. Chesney is aware of the proposal and, in fact, serves on the Committee. Lyons expressed the desire that all interested parties be involved in the process. R. Darling inquired about having small signs placed at office doors that would indicate a supportive office. The motion was made and seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Teaching Council (I. Lane)

A Fall Teaching seminar has been organized for October 18. The panel includes winners of Chancellor's Awards. The call for nominations for the Chancellor's Awards has been slightly delayed.

Faculty Senate Retreat (D. Patterson)

Due to the late hour, Patterson decided to postpone discussion of the Faculty Senate Retreat until the next meeting.

Gross noted that the Mission Statement no longer is on the President's web site.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.