

AAUP
American Association
of University Professors

December 12, 2003

Loren Crabtree, Chancellor
810 Andy Holt Tower
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2410

Dear Chancellor Crabtree,

The Executive Committee of the campus AAUP chapter wishes to express its concern about the first Review and Redirection hearing on the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, held Nov. 17. The "Goals and Timetable" section of the process statement distributed at the faculty senate meeting of October 20, 2003 calls for "open hearings." As you know, this hearing was called at fairly short notice, in order to clarify the spring admissions situation. However, perhaps as an inadvertent side effect of the short schedule, the time and location of the hearing were not adequately publicized (at least not in any way that was easy to find: not on the Web, and not in @Tennessee; nor did we see it in the News-Sentinel, where some say it was announced). We hope that you agree that these hearings should be open and announced to all interested parties and to the faculty at large; not only faculty in the programs under review may have an interest in the general shape and scope of our institution's offerings. Such openness will demonstrate in deed the commitment to shared governance that will legitimate the Review and Redirection process and foster faculty goodwill and engagement.

While the lack of adequate publicity surrounding the first hearing may have been a simple oversight, we felt that it should not go unnoted. We understand the challenges that face the university, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen H. Blackwell
(For the AAUP-UTK Executive Committee)

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