

**American Association of University Professors
UTK Chapter, Executive Committee Meeting
October 15, 2008**
University Center 216

Richard Strange called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Members present: Richard Strange (President), Laura Howes (Vice President & Acting Secretary), Tom Hood (Treasurer), Suzanne Kurth, Loretta Price.

Members present approved the minutes for September 17, 2008, with one correction.

Tom Hood reported that the chapter has a bank balance of \$1,037. Several current and new members have not yet paid chapter dues (\$6 per year), either because they joined online or because they pay once per year to the national office, which does not include local dues. Laura Howes, who has completed the membership email list, will email those who still need to pay their local chapter dues.

Richard Strange noted that David Lee attended the state conference in early October, and he will be invited to the next meeting to report on the conference.

Members discussed the grim budget situation for UT, noting that there are written procedures in Faculty Senate records, under the heading "Review and Redirection," meant to guide the University in times of financial contraction, which the Faculty Senate has been consulting this fall.

In response to Jan Simek's October 9th email to faculty and staff regarding upcoming budget cuts, members noticed that cuts to administrative functions were not included in his list. Laura Howes will draft a letter to Simek (Interim Chancellor) asking for details about how administrative costs will also be reduced during this tough budget year. It is evident that while the size of the faculty has shrunk over the last decade, the size of the administration has grown dramatically.

Members discussed the status of faculty grievance procedures. The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, currently headed by Joan Hemenway, which used to handle faculty grievances, no longer does so. The Ombudsperson, which used to be an independent position filled by a faculty member, is now a full-time staff position, reporting to higher administration. Members understand there is a new Faculty Senate committee which is meant to deal with grievance issues, and we agreed that we'd like to know details about this development.

A large number of post-tenure review committees is also underway this fall. Members agreed that we'd like to know how many committees have been formed, and in which colleges. Richard Strange will contact Susan Martin for this information.

Finally, members discussed the upcoming membership reception. A date of Thursday, November 13, was tentatively set, 4-6pm. Members will investigate various venues for this meeting and report back to Richard via email. We plan to honor retired member Norma Cook.

Respectfully submitted by:
Laura Howes