

**A Resolution from the Budget and Planning Committee
Faculty Senate, University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

April 2009

Whereas Institutional Support spending is defined by the UT system as “costs associated with executive management, fiscal operations, personnel services, and administrative computing;” and

Whereas UT system-wide spending on Institutional Support increased by \$25.9 million between 2004 and 2008 (or by about 32.6 percent, which exceeded overall spending growth of about 11.4 percent during this same period of time); and

Whereas about two-thirds of the \$25.9 million increase occurred at the System Administration level, and more than 80 percent of the increase went toward non-academic salaries and associated staff benefits; and

Whereas UT Institutional Support spending amounted to 7 percent of total spending in 2007, which ranks as third-highest in UT’s self-selected peer group within the National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS data; and

Whereas higher education in Tennessee faces long-term budget cuts following the two-year period of federal stimulus funding; and

Whereas these budget cuts threaten to impair UTK’s capacity to achieve its most important missions of teaching, research, scholarship and creative activity;

Therefore be it resolved that the UTK Faculty Senate calls upon Acting UT President Jan Simek to:

1. exhaust any and all opportunities for efficiencies in Institutional Support and other administrative spending before cutting any academic programs, reducing class sections, laying off instructional faculty, or otherwise reducing instructional or research capacity;
2. reduce the duplication of administrative functions across the UT system to the greatest extent possible; and
3. engage in the ongoing discussion regarding the restructuring of higher education in Tennessee, with a focus on achieving administrative efficiencies while preserving instructional and research capacity and UTK’s role as the flagship institution of higher learning in the state of Tennessee.