

## **UT System Faculty Council Charter**

The University of Tennessee Systems Faculty Council is dedicated to upholding and exercising the principles of academic freedom, shared governance, tenure, and the faculty's primary responsibility for the university's curriculum.

### **I. Objectives and Functions:**

1. The mission of the UT System Faculty Council ("UTFC") is to confer with, advise, and communicate with the President of the University of Tennessee system, and his staff, as is appropriate, with regard to matters of interest to the faculties and other matters of system-wide importance.
2. The UTFC will advise the President and his staff on modifications of current system-wide policies and the development of new system-wide policies of concern to the faculties.
3. The UTFC will also work with the President to appoint faculties with appropriate expertise to system level task forces and committees to provide a faculty perspective in these groups.
4. The UTFC strives to provide a mechanism for faculty input and to enhance efficiency by ensuring faculty concerns are raised during planning stages of policies and procedures that impact faculty.
5. The UTFC will also provide a mechanism for the faculty appointee to the Board of Trustees to become aware of and receive guidance on faculty issues and perspectives on matters that arise for Board consideration.
6. The UTFC shall strive to represent the concerns of all faculties on all University of Tennessee campuses and will gather and exchange information on behalf of the faculties of the University of Tennessee.

### **II. Organization:**

1. The UTFC shall be comprised of the Faculty Senate President from each of the UT System campuses and each campus Faculty Senate shall elect, by a simple majority, one additional faculty member to a two year staggered term. Members elected to the UTFC shall be full-time tenured track faculty members of the institution he or she seeks to represent. In addition, the Board of Trustees faculty appointee from a UT Faculty Senate shall be a voting ex-officio member.
2. The UTFC shall elect, by a simple majority, a chair at the last meeting of the academic year for the following academic year, and in no event no later than May 15 of the academic year. The chair shall serve for one year with a one year renewable term.
3. The UTFC may elect other officers, as necessary, in accordance with its bylaws.
4. The UTFC shall record minutes of meetings and each institutional delegation to the UTFC shall make available to the faculty senate and faculty of its institution the official minutes of the proceedings of the UTFC, together with the written report of the delegation and any necessary exhibits or attachments.

### **III. Operations:**

1. The UTFC shall adopt its own bylaws. The bylaws shall provide for regular stated meetings of the Assembly, which shall be held at various locations.
2. The UTFC will meet with the President, and his staff, as appropriate, three times each year and may request additional meetings, if necessary.
3. Special meetings of the UTFC may be called by the President of the University of Tennessee, by the officers of the UTFC, or by members of the UTFC, in accordance with procedures to be established by the UTFC.
4. Records of the activities of the UTFC shall be kept and transmitted to the appropriate successor officers of the UTFC. Released time shall be made available to officers of the UTFC, subject to approval of the President of the University of Tennessee.
5. The UTFC shall be provided by the University of Tennessee with necessary secretarial assistance and other related services and resources.
6. The members of the UTFC shall be reimbursed by the University of Tennessee for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the UTFC.

### **Ratification and Amendment of the Charter**

1. This Charter shall be transmitted to the constituent institutions of the University of Tennessee for ratification or rejection by the faculty of each institution in accordance with the processes of that institution. The Charter shall become effective upon its ratification by a majority of the constituent institutions of the University of Tennessee. The institutions whose faculties ratify the Charter shall become participating institutions and shall send delegations to the UTFC.
2. An amendment to the Charter may be introduced in the UTFC by any member of the UTFC; and if approved by a majority of the authorized membership of the UTFC, it shall be transmitted to the participating institutions of the UTFC for ratification by the faculty of each institution in accordance with the processes of that institution. An amendment shall become effective upon its ratification by a majority of the participating institutions of the UTFC.

The foregoing proposed Charter of the UT System Faculty Council of the University of Tennessee System was adopted by the UT System Faculty Council meeting in (location) on (date).