

The University of Tennessee
Faculty Senate

WHEREAS, in accordance with the UT-Knoxville Faculty Handbook, “the faculty role in campus-wide governance is through the senate;” and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Handbook conveys to its constituency the responsibility “to consider, advise, and recommend to the administration policies about a wide range of issues affecting the general welfare of the faculty;” and

WHEREAS, an extensive survey of the faculty’s gauge of and regard for the performance of President John Petersen was taken by the Senate in January 2008; and

WHEREAS, the viability of a public higher education institution, and, more specifically, the required principles of shared governance, relies on the equitable and just principles of transparency, accessibility, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, because of this cornerstone principle of shared governance – among administrators, faculty members, and students alike – the actions of the university president and his or her staff affect the general welfare of all university constituencies , the university development plan, and construction of physical facilities on campus; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate, as the representative body of the faculty, has a duty to regularly and consistently, on at least an annual basis, gauge the level of confidence and support its electorate has in the leadership abilities of University administrative officers, including the president;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate shall conduct a subsequent survey during the 2008-09 academic year regarding the faculty's degree of confidence in and support for President Petersen;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this survey be adequately vetted for both fairness and lack of institutional bias by recognized, independent experts before it is administered, and further, that this survey, reviewing the performance of the University president, become an annual activity of the Faculty Senate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the results of this survey be made available to the public for review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution become part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on April 21, 2008.

Suzanne Kurth, Secretary

David Patterson, President