Resolution of the UTK Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee

Whereas the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is faced with the prospect of severe budget reductions for the 2009-10 fiscal year, and

Whereas at least partly as a result of our current inability to replace faculty who have left the university, many students are already having difficulties obtaining the classes they need, and

Whereas a 5% budget cut proposal from the Provost’s office currently under consideration would reduce the money available for faculty salaries at UTK by $4.4 million, about 40% of which would be obtained by not filling tenured faculty lines and about 60% of which would be obtained by layoffs of non-tenure-track faculty, and

Whereas more recent discussions suggest that the actual budget reduction will be larger than 5%, with proportionately larger reductions in faculty workforce, and

Whereas such a reduction in faculty workforce would further reduce the availability of classes for students, and

Whereas tuition increases and the uncapping of tuition are currently under discussion as means of addressing part of this shortfall, and

Whereas the Board of Trustees has in establishing the UTK Faculty Senate stipulated that the Senate may:

… consider, advise, and recommend to the chief academic officer, or, if appropriate, through the chief academic officer to the President, policies and procedures in other matters which concern the general welfare of the faculty of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, such as … priorities for the University budget

and further that it may:

…consider, advise, and recommend on proposed policies regarding student life, rights, and responsibilities.

And whereas budgetary proposals affecting availability of classes are matters regarding student life and rights,

Therefore, the UTK Faculty Senate recommends to the Provost and Chancellor of UTK and to the President of the UT system that:

1. The first priority for the use of any increased revenue from the uncapping of tuition or tuition increases in Fiscal Year 2009-10 be to retain current faculty or to fill faculty vacancies, and that

2. Savings achieved by efficiencies or cuts in administrative functions be applied not to other administrative functions but to retain current faculty or to fill faculty vacancies.
The University Faculty Council held a video-conference on Monday, January 5, 2009 with the Efficiency and Effectiveness for the Future Committee Chaired by Doug Horne of the UT Board of Trustees. A set of questions and topics was compiled, much of which was discussed during the conference. It is posted at: http://web.utk.edu/~utfc/EEC_Meeting_Topics_1-5-09.pdf

As our campus representative Beauvais Lyons serves as UTFC Task Force Coordinator, monitoring system-level committees and task forces to make sure there is appropriate faculty representation. He also has developed and maintains the Council’s web site at: http://web.utk.edu/~utfc/

The Council did not meet during the Fall 2008 term. The Council called a meeting for January 7-8 which neither John Nolt nor Beauvais Lyons could attend. Toby Boulet was able to attend in their absence. On January 8, the Council met for an hour with John Petersen (President of UT), Bonnie Yegedis (Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success) and Anthony Haynes (Associate Vice President and Director of State Relations). The primary topic of discussion was the difficult budget situation faced by the university. The specific focus was a document titled “Academic Program Discontinuance Framework,” which is in development by the office of Vice President Yegedis. She has shared this document with the campuses and is receiving comments and suggestions from them as the document continues to be developed. Each campus will develop its own extension to this document so that if academic programs are to be closed, the procedure for doing so will be transparent. The Council presented three recommendations regarding this document, each of which was discussed at length. (These will eventually appear at the Council’s web site http://web.utk.edu/~utfc/). Conversation was candid and generally positive.
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Classes Begin

Executive Committee
October 2009

Executive Committee

Fall Break

Senate
Senate

Executive Committee
March 2010

- 1: Senate
- 7-13: Spring Break
- 14-15: Executive Committee
- 28, 29: Senate
April 2010

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- **Executive Committee**

- **Spring Recess**

- **Classes End**