

**University System Relations Committee Meeting
Monday April 26, 2010, University Center Chickasaw (218), 2:00-3:00PM**

MINUTES

Members: Beauvais Lyons (Chair), David Atkins, Russel Hirst, Dan Murphy (FAR), John Nolt, Candace White, Greer Fox, Svetlana Zivanovic.

Members Absent: John Lounsbury, Russel Hirst.

Invited Guest: India Lane incoming UT Faculty Council Representative

1. Approval of the Minutes from February 22, 2010 posted at:
http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_2-22-10.pdf
Approved by consensus.
2. Report from Dan Murphy on the Task Force on Athletics Reporting.
Dan Murphy distributed a document "Report and Recommendation from the Task Force on Athletic Report." He talked about Todd Diacon's leadership of a very broad representative task force, and the process of evaluating all aspects of Athletics, including legal, student affairs, development, academic affairs, finances, and university/governmental affairs. As a result of this process the Task Force held a secret ballot and the recommendation to change the reporting lines to the UTK Chancellor was unanimous. The recommendation has gone to the Athletics Board, who after broad discussion endorsed the recommendation for change. The recommendation will now go to President Simek and then the Board of Trustees for their June meeting with implementation on July 1, 2010. India Lane asked about whether there was discussion of the division of men and women's athletics. Dan Murphy said this had not been discussed by the Task Force.

3. Issues for Next Year:

Committee Chair for 2010-2011: Geer Fox moved and John Nolt seconded to ask Beauvais Lyons to continue to serve as committee chair. The motion passed. Beauvais Lyons indicated his willingness to continue to serve for one more year if appointed by the Committee on Nominations and Appointments.

Committee Membership for 2010-2011: Greer Fox and Svetlana Zivanovic are rotating off the Faculty Senate. Toby Boulet will be on the committee as an incoming Faculty Trustee along with India Lane, the new campus representative to the UT Faculty Council. Pending the action of the Board to Trustees in June, the Faculty Athletics Representative will most likely not be on the committee, and the bylaws will need to be revised by the Faculty Senate in the Fall.

Legislative Relations: John Nolt expressed concern about the demise of stimulus funding and feels it would be constructive to communicate directly to legislators about preserving higher education in state appropriations. Candace White said that we should plan to be proactive in getting out ahead on legislative issues. Beauvais Lyons asked how to do this parallel to the legislative work of the United Campus Workers. John Nolt said it was important to be engaged in these activities separate

from the UCW, even when our messages overlap. Beauvais Lyons will enquire about the weekly brief, which has not been issued the past two weeks. David Atkins said that we should meet with Hank Dye and Anthony Haynes in the fall to prepare the way for the next legislative session. It was suggested that we also work with Joan Heminway in coordinating communications with individual legislative members, possibly for campus visits in the fall during the election season. John Nolt indicated that TUFs will also have a legislative initiative that we should also coordinate our efforts with.

Cherokee Farm: Beauvais Lyons suggested that we should meet again in the fall with the UT System Executive Vice-President along with Vice-President for Agriculture and the Chair of the UTK Research Council about Cherokee Farm. John Nolt expressed concern regarding the lack of meetings of the committee overseeing the Cherokee Campus master plan, and that there needs to be coordination of their plan with the UTK campus plan. Candace White said that transparency is important in this process, and that our committee could play an important role in assuring this.

Steam Plant on the UTK Campus: John Nolt expressed concern about options for improved efficiency, with some plans being considered renovate the facility to burn a mix of fuels including natural gas. John Nolt said the decision will be made at the system level, and that it is a 20 million dollar capital project.

ORNL: There was general concern regarding the plan to hire 200 new faculty with joint appointments with ORNL, and the feasibility of doing this in a way that enhances both academics and funded science. It was suggested that we talk to Jimmy Cheek about a role the committee could play in this effort. Beauvais Lyons said he would follow up on this.

4. Discussion of campus/system issues with India Lane and future agenda items for the UT Faculty Council. Candace White stress looking at the UT Faculty Council charter, and the importance of having a strong presence at UT Board of Trustees meetings because it gives the board members more connections with faculty. She also talked about the importance of placing emphasis on system-wide issues, and sometimes taking advocacy role in relation to an individual campus when needed. John Nolt stressed the importance of budget and planning, especially regarding legislative relations. India said she would check with Joe DiPietro regarding Cherokee Farm issues and said she appreciates the role the System Relations Committee could provide in representing the campus.
5. Adjournment at 3:10pm