

# ***The Faculty Voice***

## **Faculty Senate Newsletter**

### **September 2010**

Newsletter Editor: Stefanie Ohnesorg, Information Officer

This newsletter will be provided to you over the course of the year as a means of keeping you connected to the activities of the UT Knoxville Faculty Senate, your representative body on campus. This first installment for the 2010-11 academic year is necessarily longer than the others will be, because it highlights both information about the Faculty Senate itself and information about the current issues before the Faculty Senate. Future newsletters will focus on current issues. Questions regarding and suggestions for this newsletter may be directed to the Information Officer of the Faculty Senate, Stefanie Ohnesorg, at [ohnesorg@utk.edu](mailto:ohnesorg@utk.edu).

### **Items Covered in this Newsletter:**

- 1. Presidential Search**  
→ Update & **Info on Options to Provide Input**
- 2. VOL Vision & Top 25 Initiatives**  
→ Update & **Info on Options to Provide Input**
- 3. Budget Situation**  
→ Update & **Info on Options to Provide Input**
- 4. TUFFS**  
→ Update & **Info on Options to Provide Input**
- 5. Banner Implementation**  
→ Update
- 6. "Fall Faculty Meeting with Chancellor Cheek" on Sept. 22, 2010**  
→ All faculty invited // **RSVP requested by Sept. 17, 2010**
- 7. Review Related Possible Program Discontinuances (Majors in Russian & Italian)**  
→ Update & **Info on Options to Provide Input**
- 8. In Short**  
→ Brief Updates on Various items
- 9. Faculty Senate Updates**  
→ Links to Minutes, Agendas, and Reports  
→ **Major Items on the Agenda for the Sept. 20, 2010 Meeting**  
→ **Make Your Voice Be Heard! Provide Input via the Senators from YOUR Unit!**

.....

#### **1. Presidential Search**

The search is ongoing, and all information related to this search can be found here:  
<http://president.tennessee.edu/search/>.

Those who want to nominate someone for this position, or express interest in the position, or would like to obtain additional information, should contact the search consultants supporting this search at [UTPresident@wittkiewer.com](mailto:UTPresident@wittkiewer.com) as soon as possible.

**Timeline:** The names of finalists are scheduled to be released on after the Search Committee meets on Oct. 7, 2010, with the final decision to be made by the UT Board of Trustees in late October.

**Your Involvement is Needed:** The Faculty Senate is concerned about an adequate time for full background checks with the short time between announcement of candidates, interviews, and the recommendation for hiring. Faculty Senate President Joan Heminway therefore strongly encourages everyone who has professional contacts with people who have worked with the nominees to contact them and share with the Search Committee what is learned. She is a member of the Search Advisory Council and is working with the Search Committee to get a list of template questions that may be useful to you in making these contacts. Feedback for the Presidential Search Committee should be sent via this link: <http://president.tennessee.edu/search/feedback.html>.

## 2. VOL Vision & Top 25 Initiatives

In spring 2010, Gov. Phil Bredesen challenged UT Knoxville to become a Top 25 public research university. We currently are ranked 47th by *U.S. News & World Report*. Chancellor Cheek has posted a PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Advancing the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Towards the Top 25" on his webpage in which he outlines his views and vision for our advancement towards the Top 25 (<http://chancellor.utk.edu/>) The Top 25 quest has now been integrated into the VOL Vision plan. Based on input provided by the campus community in spring 2010, the plan has now been reduced to only 10 pages, and diversity has become a key component. All information related to VOL Vision is posted at <http://www.utk.edu/strategic-planning/>, and the entire campus community is strongly encouraged to read the updated plan and provide input and feedback. The current working draft of the VOL Vision document is posted here: <http://www.utk.edu/strategic-planning/documents/index.php>. All input and feedback that should be considered prior to presenting the final document to the Board of Trustees in October needs to be submitted by **September 30, 2010**. The form for providing feedback on the current working draft of the VOL Vision document is posted here: <http://www.utk.edu/strategic-planning/feedback/index.php>. **A campus meeting to discuss the VOL Vision plan is scheduled for Thursday, September 16 at 10:00 am in the Crest Room at the University Center.**

## 3. Budget Situation

The 'good news' in the midst of all the bad news related to the budget situation is, as was noted by Chancellor Cheek at the last Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting, that no additional cuts were allocated to academic units for this year because of past planning, stimulus funding, and the tuition increase. He and Provost Martin also reminded the Executive Council that the campus administration took larger percentage cuts than campus academic programs.

Chancellor Cheek seeks input and feedback from the campus community related to the budget situation. On his webpage, he writes: "In a time of shrinking budgets, the university must remain diligent in seeking the most strategic ways to reduce the impact of cuts on the campus," and he invites everyone who has a suggestion for a way in which the university can save money to share this information with him. The budget feedback form is posted at <http://chancellor.utk.edu/budget/feedback/index.shtml>.

#### 4. TUFSS

The UT Knoxville Faculty Senate is a charter member of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFSS), an organization designed to increase communication among faculty senates at the state's universities and provide faculty an opportunity to speak with a united voice on issues of importance at the state level. UT Knoxville is represented at TUFSS by Faculty Senate President Joan Heminway. In addition, Faculty Senate Past President Toby Boulet is serving as President-Elect of TUFSS, and former Faculty Senate President John Nolt is serving as Past President of TUFSS.

For more information on TUFSS see <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/TUFSS/index.html>.

During the Sept. 20, 2010 Faculty Senate Meeting five TUFSS resolutions will be presented for consideration. **All faculty members are urged to acquaint themselves with these resolutions and indicate their views on them to their Senators prior to Sept. 20, 2010.**

The TUFSS resolutions that are being considered at the Sept. 20, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting (as well as related materials) are posted along with the full Faculty Senate agenda for the Sept. 20 meeting at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html>.

#### 5. Banner Implementation

Starting with registration for spring 2011 classes on Thursday, Sept. 30, many UT Knoxville faculty and staff will begin to use the new Banner Self Service student information system. As of Sept. 30, 2010, students will register for classes in Banner Self Service instead of in Circle Park Online (CPO). Over the next four-to-six months, more CPO functions will move to Banner Self Service, which will provide remote access and round-the-clock service and will integrate with MyUTK, the university's portal, to allow single-sign-on access to Banner, Online@UT (Blackboard) and the DARS degree audit system. For more information on the implementation of Banner, please see <http://provost.utk.edu/announcements/banner-information-system.shtml>.

#### 6. "Fall Faculty Meeting with Chancellor Cheek" on Sept. 22, 2010

UT Knoxville Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek will hold the second annual Fall Faculty Meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22, in Room 402 of the Haslam Business Building. The agenda includes a report from Chancellor Cheek on some of the major achievements of the year and a review of significant campus initiatives now under way. There will also be a report from Faculty Senate President Joan Heminway, who will discuss major issues facing faculty and outline Senate goals for the year. Immediately afterward, a reception will be held in the Stokely Hospitality Suite, Room 501, of the Haslam Business Building. **All faculty members planning on attending should RSVP by Friday, Sept. 17**, to [ataylo30@utk.edu](mailto:ataylo30@utk.edu).

For updates related to this event, please see:

<http://www.utk.edu/events/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=46093>.

#### 7. Review of Possible Program Discontinuances (Majors in Russian & Italian)

The Procedural Framework for Academic Program Discontinuance and Reorganization is posted on the Provost's website at <http://provost.utk.edu/discontinuance/>. There currently are two program discontinuance proposals under review at the Provost's Office, covering the major in Russian and the major in Italian. Past Faculty Senate President Toby Boulet has agreed to work with Faculty Senate President Joan Heminway as her designee in these discontinuance processes. Boulet and Heminway will work with the Provost as each step in

the process proceeds, and if the proposals progress, the Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council will eventually be involved in the review of the proposals to discontinue these two programs.

The Faculty Senate's role in this review process is to represent, through the President and her designee, the faculty in the discontinuance process. Faculty consultation is designed to ensure that all steps in the Procedural Framework for Academic Program Discontinuance and Reorganization are completed and that the process is fair.

Since program closures impact the campus as a whole, all faculty members are strongly encouraged to consider the impact that a possible discontinuance of the Russian major or the Italian major may have on their teaching, scholarship, or service, their academic unit, or campus-wide initiatives (e.g., Ready for the World). **All faculty members are asked to provide their input and feedback on this matter to the Faculty Senate through their Senators or by email to Faculty Senate President Joan Heminway at [jheminwa@tennessee.edu](mailto:jheminwa@tennessee.edu).**

## 8. In Short

- a. **Faculty Salaries.** At the last Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting, Chancellor Cheek emphasized that one of his priorities this year will be to address the lack of raises in the past four years and to push as hard as possible for raises, even though this will be a very hard issue to navigate in the current restrictive budget environment.
- b. **Future Budgetary Issues & Post-Stimulus Funding.** Chancellor Cheek has convened a group to consider changes in the way tuition is charged for undergraduates at UT Knoxville. One option the group is studying is the possibility of charging students by the credit hour. However, historically charging by the credit hour has sometimes led to students taking fewer credit hours per semester. Another possibility is to charge tuition on the basis of 15 (rather than 12) credit hours for full-time study. Any changes in the method for calculating tuition will need to be designed in such a way that they complement the Top 25 commitment to improve graduation in four years.
- c. **Deferred Maintenance.** There is over \$200 million dollars in deferred maintenance on the UT Knoxville campus. In addition, no new buildings have been approved since Chancellor Cheek arrived, and it appears none will be approved for next year. The Board of Trustees supported this year's 9% tuition increase (\$1.6 million), which incorporates a plan to reinvest in the academic enterprise, including facilities.
- d. **CIRE.** UT Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) have named physics professor Lee Riedinger as director of the UTK/ORNL Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education (CIRE). For more information see <http://chancellor.utk.edu/announcements/20100825.shtml>.
- e. **Athletics Reporting Line.** In June 2010, the UT Board of Trustees voted to move the athletics reporting line from the UT President to the UT Knoxville campus, effective July 1, 2010. For more information see <http://chancellor.utk.edu/announcements/20100625.shtml>.

- f. **Vice Chancellor Resignation.** In August 2010, Dr. Brad Fenwick resigned from his position as Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement and resumed his appointment as professor in the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Wes Hines, professor of nuclear engineering, is serving as interim Vice Chancellor. For more information see <http://chancellor.utk.edu/announcements/20100819.shtml>.
- g. **Early Alerts to Support Academic Success.** The Chancellor desires to encourage faculty participation in campus early alert systems designed to identify academic performance issues for student athletes and other student populations. One suggestion has been to afford administrators access to Blackboard course management websites, including in particular the grade book areas in these sites. Faculty members are asked to suggest via their Senators other possible ways of facilitating their participation in early alert systems geared to helping ensure students' academic success.
- h. **Bottleneck Courses.** The Provost's office is collecting and analyzing data to better identify gaps between class availability and student needs. The goal of this study is to understand capacity limitations that are hindering graduation in four years and to determine what can be done to remove these hindrances.

**9. Faculty Senate Updates // MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

The UT Knoxville Faculty Senate is the representative body through which the faculty participates in University affairs and shared governance. Through committees and a democratically elected legislative body it promulgates policies and regulations regarding the general educational objectives of UT Knoxville. **It is, therefore, important that all faculty members stay "connected" with the Faculty Senate by being informed and by providing input and comments via the Senators who represent them in the Faculty Senate.**

**i. Links to Minutes, Agendas, Reports etc. for 2010-11**

Main Page: <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html>

**Please make sure to scroll down to the bottom of this page in order to see the updates for all areas.**

Please check frequently for updates regarding the work of Faculty Senate because new items will be added as they become available!

**ii. Major Items on the Agenda for the next Faculty Senate Meeting (Sept. 20, 2010):**

- Service Recognitions
- TUFs Resolutions
- Presentation on the new 946-CARE program for faculty
- **IMPORTANT: Make Your Voice Be Heard !!**

**Provide Input & Feedback via the Senators from YOUR Unit!**

- a. The List of all 2010-11 Senators (incl. contact info) is posted here: [http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/Membership\\_2011-2013\\_updated.pdf](http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/Membership_2011-2013_updated.pdf).
- b. All 2010-11 Senate committee assignments are posted here: [http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/Committees\\_2010-2011\\_updated.pdf](http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/Committees_2010-2011_updated.pdf).