

*The Faculty Voice*  
**Faculty Senate Newsletter**  
**October 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. The intent of this newsletter is keep all faculty members informed about current issues before the Faculty Senate and to motivate all faculty to get involved. 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, Interviews with Finalists & **Info on How to Provide Input**
2. **VOL Vision 2015**
3. **TUFS**
4. **Health Insurance Open Enrollment (until October 15, 2010)**  
→ Information on the new healthcare plan  
→ Information designed to help decide between the various new options  
→ Don't forget: **This year, EVERYONE needs to enroll by the **Oct. 15 deadline!****  
**As of Jan. 1, 2010, ALL current health care options **will no longer be available!****
5. **Search for "Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement"**
6. **CIRE**
7. **Civility Task Force**
8. **In Short**
9. **Faculty Senate Updates**  
→ Links to Minutes, Agendas, and Reports  
→ **Major Items on the Agenda for the October 18 Faculty Senate Meeting**  
→ **Make Your Voice Be Heard! Provide Input via the Senators from YOUR Unit!**

.....

**1. Presidential Search**

Five finalists for the position of president of the University of Tennessee system have been named and their campus visits and interviews have been scheduled for October 12 and 13, 2010. Each candidate will participate in a public forum, and if you are unable to attend these sessions, you can also view them via live webcast. Archives of the interviews will also be on the same site, [www.tennessee.edu](http://www.tennessee.edu).

It is important that the entire campus gets involved in this search, and in an e-mail to all faculty members dated October 6, 2010, Joan Heminway (Faculty Senate President 2010-11), urged all faculty members to do two things in connection with the Presidential search:

- First, attend (in-person or on-line) the campus open forums featuring the finalist candidates, and
- Second, contact folks who may know the finalists to help the Search Advisory Council and Committee ascertain as much about each candidate as possible.

**Here is a list of the candidates to be invited with the schedule for these public forums which all will be held in the Shiloh Room of the University Center:**

- **Jerry Askew**, senior vice president for external relations, Mercy Health Partners in Knoxville since 2001; former dean of students, associate vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs and assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Knoxville; an applicant in the previous presidential search.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.**
- **Joe DiPietro**, chancellor, UT Institute of Agriculture since 2006; dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida from 1997 to 2006; also held administrative positions at the University of Illinois, Urbana.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**
- **Craig Fitzhugh**, chairman and CEO of the Bank of Ripley since 1992; has served in the State House of Representatives since 1994 and is chair of the House Finance Ways and Means Committee; earned his bachelor's and law degrees at UT Knoxville; an applicant in the previous search.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
- **Robert McGrath**, consultant for Battelle Memorial Institute on university partnerships, STEM education and Race to the Top initiatives since April; served as senior vice president for research at Ohio State University from 2004 to 2008.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010, 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.**
- **Brian Noland**, chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission since 2006; former associate executive director at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission; earned his doctorate in political science at UT Knoxville.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010, 1:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.**

Please share your thoughts on these finalists with both, the Search Advisory Council and with the Presidential Search Committee by providing feedback via the following website: <http://president.tennessee.edu/search/feedback.html>

The Presidential Search Committee will recommend finalists to the Board of Trustees, and the Trustees will consider the finalists at the full board meeting on Oct. 21 and 22, 2010.

**Please note that all information and updated on the presidential search will be posted here: <http://www.tennessee.edu/> .**

## 2. VOL Vision 2015

Input provided by the campus for VOL Vision was discussed at the Dean, Director, and Department Head (DDD) retreat meeting held on October 3-4, 2010. The plan will now be revised to reflect resulting refinements. All information related to VOL Vision is posted at <http://www.utk.edu/strategic-planning/> , and it is planned to present this strategic plan to the UT System Board of Trustees on October 21 and 22, 2010 (although the presidential search may preempt its consideration at that meeting).

### 3. TUFFS

The UT Knoxville Faculty Senate is a charter member of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFFS), 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. For more information on TUFFS see <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/TUFFS/index.html>.

During the Sept. 20, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting, senators voted on five TUFFS resolutions. These TUFFS resolutions (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>. The UTK Faculty Senate passed resolution #1 with one abstention, and passed resolutions #2, #3, #4, and #5 unanimously.

TUFFS reports that the five motions in question and a sixth carryover motion from the April 2010 meeting have all been ratified by a majority of the member senates. A link to a detailed vote summary from all member senates was compiled by TUFFS Secretary Lyn Miles and is posted here: <http://tinyurl.com/2v5yqx3>.

### 4. Health Insurance Open Enrollment (until October 15, 2010)

We are currently in an open enrollment period for our new healthcare plan (which takes effect on January 1, 2011). Open enrollment continues through October 15, and information about the new plan and the enrollment process can be obtained at <http://insurance.tennessee.edu/enrollment.htm>.

This Web site also includes a useful set of "Common Questions and Answers" at <http://insurance.tennessee.edu/Questionsandanswers.htm> that was devised through the Faculty Senate Benefits & Professional Development Committee, chaired by Anne Smith from the College of Business Administration.

In this context you may also want to read the minutes of the Sept. 23 meeting of the Faculty Senate Benefits & Professional Development Committee, because these minutes reflect that several issues related to the new healthcare plan are not fully resolved yet (for example the questionnaire for the partnership option), and they also touch upon possible long-term effects of this new healthcare plan (for example in the context of hiring and recruiting).

Here is a direct link to these minutes, which are posted together with other committee minutes on the Faculty Senate's webpage: <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2010-11/Minutes from Faculty Benefits 9 23 2010 FINAL.pdf>.

### 5. Search for "Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement"

At the October 4, 2010 Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting, Chancellor Cheek was asked about the change in the title used in position announcements for filling the position of the Vice Chancellor for Research at UTK. The existing position is titled "Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement," and this was changed to "Vice Chancellor for Research" for the ongoing search. Chancellor Cheek responded that this did not signify a lessening of the importance of engagement to the campus. He reported that most institutions he sampled advertise similar positions without including the "engagement" portion. He also cautioned that leaving "engagement" in the title and job description might deter some qualified applicants for the position. Based on this input, the Search Committee decided to drop "engagement" from the title used in the announcement.

Dr. Cheek added that if the person hired has the interest, skills, and experience in managing and leading engagement and wants the title, it will be added to the title. If the person hired does not assume the leadership role in engagement, those responsibilities will be assigned to someone else. Chancellor Cheek promised that he would meet with the Academic Outreach and Engagement Council (<http://web.utk.edu/~aoec/>) to discuss the search and the titling of the position.

## **6. 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> .

This new Center is proposing a new Ph.D. program in Energy Science and Engineering which has already been approved by Graduate Council. This program is on a fast track, with the first students proposed to be admitted for the Fall 2011 semester, pending approval of the program. In order to do this, the state legislature must approve the program in November. Before the proposal can be presented to the legislature, it must be passed by the Faculty Senate on October 18, 2010.

The planned program could award up to 277 degrees by 2020. The idea is to utilize the researchers and facilities at ORNL in cooperation with the academics at UTK. The degree is designed to be interdisciplinary, allowing study in the Colleges of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Agriculture. Dr. Riedinger promised to work with faculty on implementation issues, which comprised the major part of the unresolved issues relating to the program. He plans to be available to respond to questions related to the proposed a new Ph.D. program in Energy Science and Engineering at the October 18 Faculty Senate meeting.

## **7. Civility Task Force**

In March 2010, Chancellor Jimmy Cheek announced plans to focus the UTK community on civility, after a series of incidents that reflected bias on campus. Creating and maintaining a welcoming campus climate that promotes civility and community is one way to increase diversity at UTK, while sustaining gains made from previous efforts to expand access to the University for faculty, staff, and students. To this end, Chancellor Cheek appointed a 13-member task force. The Final Report of this task force is now available, and all members of the campus community are strongly urged to acquaint themselves with the findings and recommendations presented in this report. The report is posted on the Faculty Senate website as an attachment under the Agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting of Oct. 18, 2010 (<http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html>).

## **8. In Short**

### **a. Dean/Department Head evaluations.**

Dean/Department Head evaluations are currently being conducted, and all faculty members are strongly urged to complete these evaluations.

### **b. Sustainability Courses.**

A list of courses currently listed as sustainability courses was posted with the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting for Sept. 20, 2010. Faculty are urged to suggest additions and/or deletions at any time. The goal is to make the list accurate; it can

be found at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html> under the agenda for the Sept. 20 Faculty Senate meeting.

- c. **Additional Funding for Instruction.** The Provost's office has received \$1.6 million to reinvest in instruction. Vice Provost McMillan is leading a comprehensive study on how to best adjust courses and enrollment given the loss of state and stimulus funding for the next fiscal year.
- d. **946-CARE.** Sarah Gardial, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, and Mary Lucal, Human Resources, announced the launch of 946-CARE. Use this phone number to contact a trained staff member when you feel there are issues with a faculty or staff member that could affect his or her well-being or the well-being of others.

## 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 staying 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 (October 18, 2010):

- ➔ Update on UT Presidential Search
- ➔ Update on VOL Vision 2015
- ➔ Update on Program Discontinuance Proposals for the Russian and Italian majors

#### ➔ **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).