

UTK Faculty Senate Executive Council  
President's Report  
(May 2011)

I. Faculty Research Incentive Plan

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Wes Hines forwarded to me a draft of this plan for your consideration. It is posted at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html> as an attachment to our meeting agenda. Please review this and get me any comments you may have ([jheminwa@tennessee.edu](mailto:jheminwa@tennessee.edu)). Optimally, this would have come before you for deliberation and approval, but the timing of the Office for Research on this project is such that it will not be possible for us to give this plan consideration on the floor.

II. General Education Survey

Please contribute to the assessment of our general education curriculum by completing the survey at <http://survey.utk.edu/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=GENED>.

III. Resolution of UT Library Directors and Deans

I also have included as an attachment to the agenda for this meeting (<http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html>) a draft resolution from the library directors and deans across the UT system. This resolution was discussed at the April teleconference meeting of the University of Tennessee Faculty Council. Progress is being made on these issues, and the resolution is already a bit outdated as a result of the conversations at the meeting. In my view, a system has been put in place to constructively pursue matters covered in the resolution. Accordingly, I do not propose that we bring this matter to the floor at this time. But please let me know if you have any thoughts relevant to the issue of better, financially sustainable, efficient collaborations among the UT libraries.

IV. Update on Vol Vision

Although we got a report on the progress of one of the implementation teams for the UTK campus strategic plan this year (the one focusing on our objective to recruit, develop, and graduate a diverse body of undergraduate students), we have not yet heard from the other four implementation teams. My hope and belief is that, in the coming months, those additional teams will report out to the Executive Council and the full Faculty Senate so that we can understand and be invested in the action items central to our campus mission.

V. Master Plan Meeting

The campus meeting on our draft Master Plan was held on April 13. The Web site created for information about and comments on the Master Plan is available at <http://masterplan.utk.edu/>.

#### VI. Launch of Campus Civility Initiative

On April 15, the Chancellor Cheek launched a UTK campus civility initiative during the International Festival. During the week preceding the launch, he released a video that features a number of administrators, faculty, and students. The video is available at <http://civility.utk.edu/video.php>. Look forward to implementation of many of the ideas shared in the Final Report of the Chancellor's Task Force on Civility and Community, available at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2010-11/FSECAAttachment3-CivilityTaskForceReport0%288-23-10%29.pdf> and approved in principle by the Faculty Senate earlier this year.

#### VII. Update on UT Background Check Policy

I continue to work with Provost Susan Martin and Vice Provost Sarah Gardial on refinements to the documents and process for these new background checks. Provost Martin reported to the Executive Council earlier this month that progress is being made on faculty background check procedures and that no hiring issues have been generated by the policy as currently being implemented.

#### VIII. Update on Service Learning Insurance Fee

Vice Provost Sally McMillan is working with leaders at the College of Arts and Sciences to better align this policy with actual risks. I continue to remain engaged with this activity.

#### IX. Update on Guns on Campus

On behalf of the faculty, Toby Boulet joined a delegation of students and administrators in Nashville to support the resolutions we adopted relating to the permissive presence of guns on our campus. Although the hearing on this issue was postponed by the House Judiciary Committee, Toby was among those able to engage legislators on the issue in the hallway: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/apr/20/campus-guns-debated-despite-delay-vote/>.

Also, our colleagues in the Faculty Senate at Vanderbilt adopted a resolution to support our resolution: <http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/vanderbilt-faculty-senate-passes-resolution-supporting-ut-gun-ban>.

#### X. Faculty Story

As you may recall, the idea behind my monthly "faculty story" this year as a part of my "focus on faculty" has been to focus us all on each other to recognize contributions to teaching or service in ways that our individual units and the campus seldom recognize

those contributions. In that same spirit, this month, I want to recognize YOU for your service to the Faculty Senate this year. Whether you came to your representative role wholly voluntarily or whether there was some arm-twisting involved, you have served your unit and the Knoxville campuses (and institutes) well this year. Thank you.

We've accomplished a lot together this year as faculty representatives of UTK, the UTIA, and the UTSI. In the fall, we helped vet and appoint a new UT President and, by adopting a resolution constructed by the Tennessee University Faculty Senates, expressed support for our colleagues in the Tennessee Board of Regents universities who had no role in the selection of their system chancellor. We approved in principle the Final Report of the Chancellor's Task Force on Civility and Community and the campus Work-Life Climate Report. We discussed and debated and then approved a new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Energy Sciences and Engineering. We participated in negotiations and dialogue over whether to terminate to academic programs. We revised our own rules of internal governance as a representative, deliberative faculty body (through amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws), and we modified governance rules applicable to the faculty as a whole (through the approval of amendments to the *Faculty Handbook* and *Manual for Faculty Evaluation*). We approved a motion brought to the floor by two of our members to adopt a resolution supporting the current gun ban on our campuses. And through work in our committees, in each other's offices, and at various coffee shops around town, we've done a lot more. Remind yourself of these and other activities in which you have engaged to make our campus community a better place. A lot of the record is available at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/reports/index.html>. You have helped right a page in the history of The University of Tennessee. Give yourselves a pat on the back. And accept my heartfelt thanks for your participation and support.

I know I hand the reigns of leadership of this group over to a very capable man. I have enjoyed working with Vince Anfara this year and look forward to continuing to do so next year as Past President of this body. He is a diligent, capable guy, and I hope that you will encourage him and give him the same level—or more—of your time and effort as we continue to work through difficult economic times on our East Tennessee campuses. And we'll all get the opportunity to work with Steve Thomas in a new capacity, too. Steve has been a steady hand in this organization as the Chair of our Faculty Affairs Committee for the past two years, and I know he will bring the same and more to the Faculty Senate as our new President-Elect.

In closing, again, many thanks. I wish you all well as we continue this journey together—stronger together than individually. Please continue to recognize and support each other's scholarship, research, creative activity, teaching, and service on an ongoing basis. That's part of what makes us who we are and what makes us better.