

**University System Relations Committee Meeting
Wednesday August 25, 2010, University Center Chickasaw (218), 3:30-5:00PM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Beauvais Lyons (Chair), Hillary Fouts, Svetlana Zivanovic, Doug Blaze, Gregory Sedrick, Cathy Cochran, Dan Murphy (FAR), India Lane (UTFC), Toby Boulet (BOT).

Member Absent: John Lounsbury

Guests: Hank Dye and Lofton Stuart joined the meeting at 4pm

1. **Approval of the minutes from April 26, 2010** posted at:
http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_4-26-10.pdf Approved by consensus.
2. **Setting meetings for Fall 2010, reviewing the committee charge, work completed in 2009-2010 and setting goals and addressing issues for 2010-2011:**

Meetings for Fall 2010:

Wednesday August 25, 3:30-5pm, University Center 218

Wednesday September 22, 3:30-5pm, University Center 218 (to be devoted to the Presidential Search, and discussions with Matt Murray, Joan Heminway and possibly President Simek)

Wednesday November 3, 3:30-5pm, University Center 218

Wednesday December 1, 3:30-5pm, University Center 218

Membership and Charge from the Faculty Senate Bylaws:

University/System Relations Committee. Membership shall consist of at least eight faculty members including the elected campus representative to the University Faculty Council and the Faculty NCAA Representative. During years when the campus has a faculty representative on the UT Board of Trustees, that person will also serve on the University/System Relations Committee. The Chairperson shall be a faculty member.

The University/System Relations Committee will provide for faculty input (a) into activities of The University of Tennessee system, including Athletics, Research, ORNL, Information Technology, the Cherokee Campus and (b) with the Board of Trustees and the Tennessee legislature. The University/System Relations Committee shall work with the Budget and Planning Committee to monitor The University of Tennessee system budget and Athletics Department budget.

Final Report 2009-2010:

http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_Report_for_2009-2010.pdf

Issues:

- A. **Fulfill charge as stated in the Senate Bylaws:** There was discussion of several aspects of the committee charge with particular emphasis on system research. Greg Sedrick talked about his involvement in EPSCOR, a STEM related initiative through NSF, for which he is a Co-Principal Investigator with David Milhourn. Much of the discussion focused on the need for better communication about and transparency regarding system research initiatives. The *Quest* publication through the UTK Office of Research was given as an example of a best practice for system research. Greg Sedrick suggested we work with Stacy Patterson who serves as a key person for system research. The committee agreed to develop a series of questions about system-level research that Greg Sedrick can convey to Stacy Patterson in preparation for a future meeting.

B. Revise Committee membership/charge with Athletics now reporting to Campus:

The following revised text was proposed for the Faculty Senate Bylaws regarding the UT System Relations Committee:

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The University/System Relations Committee will provide for faculty input (a) into activities of The University of Tennessee system, including ~~Athletics~~, Research, ORNL, Information Technology, the Cherokee Campus and (b) with the Board of Trustees and the Tennessee legislature. The University/System Relations Committee shall work with the Budget and Planning Committee to monitor The University of Tennessee system budget. ~~and Athletics Department budget.~~

Toby Boulet moved, and Dan Murphy seconded. Motion approved.

- C. Appropriate engagement with Gubernatorial and Legislative Races:** Joined by Lofton Stuart and Hank Dye, there was discussion of working in concert with the UT Alumni Association on a set of questions for legislative and gubernatorial candidates to address. Lofton Stuart talked about a tradition going back several decades of issuing questions to gubernatorial candidates in the past, the answers of which were sent to all alumni in the state. In the past they have not developed a questionnaire directed to legislative candidates. The timing of the questionnaire and how to pose the questions in a way that help to inform the candidates on the issues faced by the state and the university was discussed. It was also mentioned that given the quick timetable, it is anticipated that the answers from the candidates will be posted on the UT Alumni Affairs web site and will be sent by email to university alumni. It was agreed that the questionnaire should be out by mid-September and involvement by UT Alumni Affairs, the Faculty Senate and student government leaders would be constructive. Toby Boulet suggested that a question focused on the proportion of state funding towards higher education. Another issues is their position on proprietary schools in relation to lottery funds. Resources are a big issue, and what the appropriate balance is between tuition, state appropriations and endowments was discussed. Several things such as the Complete College Education Act, economic development initiatives, and ORNL research initiatives all have bipartisan support, and should be part of the questionnaire. One question that is needed is addressing the formula disparity between UTHSC and ETSU. It is expected that at least 10 questions will be part of the finished questionnaire. Beauvais Lyons said that the committee can be a resource in vetting potential questions and will work with Lofton Stuart and Hank Dye to help with communications.
- D. Appropriate Engagement with UT Presidential Search:** Because the public phase of the search will start on October 6th and will be relatively short, about the only thing we can do is have a conversation in advance with our with UTK representative Search Committee members Matt Murray and Joan Heminway, Faculty Trustee Toby Boulet as well as Interim President Jan Simek. The committee also discussed the importance of due diligence by faculty with colleagues at institutions where the candidates have worked once the public phase begins. Toby Boulet indicated that this was planned, and India Lane said she would convey the importance of this effort to colleagues through the University Faculty Council.

3. Adjournment at 4:55pm