

Tennessee University Faculty Senates

**Report from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (“UTK”)
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Most of the following matters represent updates to the information in Past President Toby Boulet’s UTK report issued in June 2010.

UT Presidential Search

One UTK faculty member, **Matt Murray** (Professor, Department of Economics) was named to the Presidential Search Committee. I represent the UTK faculty on the Presidential Search Advisory Council. The Presidential Search Advisory Council also includes one UTIA faculty member, **Claudia Kirk** (Professor, Medicine & Nutrition), a UTK student, and a UTK administrative staff member. **Toby Boulet** (Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering), **John Nolt** (Professor, Philosophy), Faculty Senate President-elect **Vince Anfara** (Professor and Department Head, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), and I met with a representative of the executive search firm selected to administer the overall search. In addition, Toby Boulet and I both met with Matt Murray early in June to discuss faculty input on the Presidential search (obtained by Toby in response to a request made by him). Both the Search Committee and the Search Advisory Council had initial meetings in June. Most of the faculty activity relating to the search is scheduled to take place during a three-week period in October. These activities include Committee and Council meetings, campus interviews, the selection of nominees for presentation to the Board of Trustees, and Trustee Committee and Board meetings to select the preferred candidate.

UTK VOL Vision Campus Planning Process Update

Provost **Susan Martin**’s VOL Vision campus planning initiative, coordinated by Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs **Sarah Gardial**, me, and my fellow faculty members **Ed Cortez** (Professor and Director, School of Information Sciences) and **Dixie Thompson** (Professor and Department Head, Department of Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies), is entering its second and final phase this fall. Output on the initial draft plan from the spring campus discussion groups was consolidated and presented to Chancellor **Jimmy Cheek**, Provost Martin, and the outside consultant retained for the project in May 2010. The consultant currently is refashioning the plan into a new draft by including this output and integrating objectives, strategies, tactics, and metrics from the Top 25 initiative (the status of which is

¹ As many of you know, the UTK Faculty Senate represents and governs faculty members appointed at UTK, The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, and The University of Tennessee Space Institute.

reported below). A campus vetting process for the refashioned plan will be undertaken in the fall semester, with the objective of presenting a plan to the UT Board of Trustees in October.

UTK Top 25 Initiative Update

The gap analysis report prepared by Chancellor Cheek's Top 25 Task Force (comparing and contrasting attributes of UTK with those of top 25 public universities) was presented to the UT Board of Trustees in June. As you may recall, this Task Force was created to respond to Governor Bredesen's challenge to make UTK a Top 25 public university. The Office of the Provost forwarded recommendations for change from the Task Force report to the outside consultant retained by the Provost's Office to work on the UTK VOL Vision campus plan.

UTK Athletics Update

In June, the UT Board of Trustees voted to transfer administration of the UTK men's and women's athletics programs from the UT system to the UTK campus. Accordingly, the UTK athletics function now reports to the UTK Chancellor. Campus administration and the UTK Faculty Senate will work out the details related to faculty governance over athletics under the new administrative structure over the coming academic year.

UT Compensation Advisory Board Update

UTK campus representative Toby Boulet reports that at the June meeting of the UT Compensation Advisory Board additional progress was made in developing a process for handling compensation issues as across the UT System more comprehensively. No policies have yet been proposed for adoption.

THEC Public Agenda for Tennessee Higher Education, 2010-2015 (formerly the THEC Master Plan) Update

TUFS representative John Nolt will be reporting out on this later in the meeting.

UTK Faculty Senate Update

There has been no formal activity in the UTK Faculty Senate since Toby Boulet's June 2010 report was issued.

I will be presenting to new faculty at our new faculty orientation later this month and will be making a "state of the faculty" presentation at a campus all-faculty meeting hosted by Chancellor Cheek in September 2010.

On Friday, September 3, the UTK Faculty Senate will hold its annual retreat at the Baker Center on the Knoxville campus. The retreat and the academic year in the Faculty Senate are being dedicated to a "Focus on Faculty." Although this may seem to be an obvious and uninspired theme, it is an important time for faculty to focus on themselves as key

components of the campus, the University, and the higher education system in and outside Tennessee. Within this focus, I am particularly concerned about two things: faculty appreciation and faculty representation in campus governance. Faculty members are underappreciated citizens on our campuses, and the UTK Faculty Senate has lost some of its representative character and force in recent years. With a little bit of attention (including new ways of promoting the value of faculty on campus and a new communication plan for the UTK Faculty Senate), I am reasonably confident that we can help keep UTK faculty members focused and happy *and* promote better engagement by UTK faculty in and with campus governance.

Important upcoming changes at UTK include a new timetable for classes to be implemented in fall 2011 and proposed revisions to our cumulative performance review ("CPR") process (which is a top agenda item for our Faculty Affairs Committee). Toby and I are attending a meeting with other campus faculty and administrators (including a representative of the UT General Counsel's office) to discuss the latter issue on Monday.