

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
September 19, 2005

Those absent were: Bill Adams, John Ammons, Gary Bates, Micah Beck, Bruce Bomar, Ernest Brewer, Joel Diambra, Leslie Gay, Bob Gorman, Richard Heitmann, Ed Jepson, Barbara Kaye, Bill Klingeman III, Sibyl Marshall, Kula Misra, Trevor Moulden, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Ronald Pevey, John Preston, W. Tim Rogers, Bart Rohrbach*, Dileep Sachan, Carl Sams, Neal Schrick, Gerald Schroedl, Karen Sowers, Fred Weber, John Wilkerson, Mark Windham

*Alternate Senators: Robert Donnell for Bart Rohrbach

D. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Establishment of Quorum (S. Jordan)
Jordan confirmed that a quorum was present.

Senate President's Report (D. Kennedy)
Kennedy read a resolution honoring C. White for her work as president of the Faculty Senate last year. A copy was presented to White; she also received a gavel mounted on a plaque. The resolution reads as follows:

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate

WHEREAS, Professor Candace White is a highly respected colleague, teacher, and researcher; and

WHEREAS, she has served with distinction as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2004-2005 academic year, enhancing relationships between the Senate and the greater University community with a perfect balance of assertive leadership and collegiality and good will; and

WHEREAS, she has helped advance the welfare of faculty, staff, and students by advocating for a Living Wage and a more inclusive non-discrimination policy; and

WHEREAS, she has worked tirelessly to complete the Faculty Handbook and to improve the overall organization of the University for the benefit of faculty, staff, and students;

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Tennessee Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to

Dr. Candace White

for her exemplary leadership and service to the Senate and the University of Tennessee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be presented to Candace White and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on September 19, 2005.

G. Samuel Jordan
Secretary

Deseriee Kennedy
President

Kennedy next thanked those who participated in the retreat. She then reported that the Faculty Senate now has an office at 812 Volunteer Boulevard. The Faculty Senate's Web page is being updated and should be much better. Kennedy announced next that there will be a brown-bag lunch with the chancellor tomorrow. Other such lunches will occur October 26 and November 17. All will be held in the arena dining area.

Kennedy turned next to matters carried over from last year. These include no-smoking entrances for all campus buildings, revising Chapter Seven of the Faculty Handbook, the spousal/partner hiring policy, and including the welcoming statement in all appropriate university written documents and including a sexual orientation statement in a non-discrimination policy. Other items for attention include the department head structure, evaluations of Deans and Department Heads, evaluation of and salary adjustments for faculty, and studying whether to manage enrollment growth and developing a system with faculty assembly.

Chancellor's Report (L. Crabtree)

Crabtree congratulated all former presidents of the Faculty Senate. He noted that his agenda for the year is in agreement with that of the Faculty Senate. He also noted that the president believes there are five keys to his agenda: organizational structure, communication (both external and internal), new resources, several subsidiary considerations concerning students and teaching, and partnerships.

Crabtree noted next that enrollment has gone up; straight-line growth would yield more than 29,000 students in 2010, but that number will require more resources. In response to a question from B. Lyons, Crabtree said that concerns of the General Counsel's Office blocked including a sexual orientation statement in the formal non-discrimination policy. He indicated that he tried changing the statement on his own last year, but was blocked.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of May 2, 2005, were approved without change.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Minutes of the Undergraduate Council meeting of April 26, 2005, were approved after it was explained that departments could specify only two prerequisites and two corequisites to be checked by the computer when students attempt to register.

Minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 21, 2005, were not posted early enough to be considered at this meeting. They will be considered at the next meeting.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Faculty Handbook Committee (B. Lyons)

Lyons briefly reviewed the history of the revision of Chapter Seven on compensated outside activities. He noted that the proposed revision is close to the current policy, but includes the expectation that a faculty member will have a conversation with his/her department head about recurring compensated outside activities and provides an appeal process for the faculty member. There were no questions. The revision will be voted on at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Information Technology Committee (G. Whitney)

Whitney reported that in 2004 it was announced that e-mail and calendaring across campus would be considered. She distributed copies of a message distributed in late May 2005, which announced that the university would be using Microsoft products for these functions. She said that she has been unable to get direct answers to direct questions about what is being done, but has been told that implementing the Microsoft decision is being delayed for further consideration. B. Bible answered several questions from senators and said that standardization would increase the likelihood that messages will arrive. B. Blass said he regrets that faculty have not been widely involved in the process and asked whether a cost/benefit analysis has been done not only for the central administration, but also for departments. D. Patterson noted that a research group in his area brought in a Microsoft system and has had great difficulties. B. Rider asked how the transition would affect students. Bible responded that most students say they expect to be using Microsoft products after graduation; he also noted that it would be an upgrade for students. L. Gross expressed his concern that faculty have not been more involved in the process and that the survey did not mention that a single platform was to be selected. He also asked about the announced implementation date of 2006 and costs to units that use Linux and other platforms. Bible said he understands that "one size does not fit all" and noted that there would be some interfaces. Whitney asked whether regular reports on the transition in OIT could be made and a truly comprehensive report on costs could be made at the conclusion of the migration. Bible agreed and said he expects this task to be completed in the next few months.

Kennedy noted that having faculty on systems-level committees would have helped in this matter.

Proposed Bylaws Changes (D. Kennedy)

Kennedy reported that changes in the size and composition of the Student Affairs Committee will be presented at another meeting. She also noted that an effort is being made to determine whether there is a genuine need for the Professional Development Committee and whether there is a need

for an Information Officer. Lyons pointed out that the final report of the Professional Development Committee last year included useful information on mentoring. He suggested that the Executive Committee might be authorized to allow a committee to be dormant in a given year. He also expressed concern about having someone other than a Faculty Senator handle posting Faculty Senate materials on the Web. White said that the recent immediate past-presidents have been assuming an oversight role for the Web page. Kennedy concluded the discussion by inviting further comments to be sent to her.

Kennedy next noted that Dining Services is hosting a faculty focus group tomorrow and it is a chance for those who have special eating needs to comment. She asked Faculty Senators to inform their colleagues.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sam Jordan, Secretary