

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
March 5, 2007

Those absent were: John Ammons, Gary Bates, Grady Bogue, Jan W. Brown, Carol Collins, Cary Collins, Becky Fields, Bruce Fisher, James Fitzgerald*, Randall Gentry, Glenn Graber, Richard Heitmann*, Bill Klingeman II*, John Koontz, Don Leatherman, Murray Marks, John McRae, Kula Misra, Ronald Pevey, Joe Rentz, Stefan Richter, W. Tim Rogers, Molly Royse*, Gregory Sedrick, Neal Shover*, Chris Skinner, Klaus Van den Berg, Fred Weber, Andrew Wentzel, Mark Windham

*Alternate Senators: Steve Thomas for Molly Royse, Robert Jones for Neal Shover, Robert Sklenar for James Fitzgerald, Gina Pighetti for Richard Heitmann, Judy Grizzle for Bill Klingeman II

L. Gross called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Establishment of a Quorum (C. White)

C. White, acting secretary in S. Kurth's absence, confirmed that a quorum was present.

Senate President's Report (L. Gross)

Campus Budget Hearings last week were attended by Neal Schrick and Budget and Planning Committee members. Deans pointed out the array of faculty activities throughout the university of which faculty should be proud. Chancellor Crabtree emphasized the campus goal of AAU status by 2014 at the hearings. Deans noted the faculty is too small relative to AAU peers. It is not clear that adequate funding will be available next year, based on the Governor's budget request to the Legislature.

Faculty need to talk to legislators about needs, problems, and opportunities. An example is the College of Nursing that turns away 100 qualified students each year who want a nursing degree, but whom the college does not have the resources to serve.

At the request of the Executive Committee, a letter was sent to President Petersen about ongoing email problems. Since portions of OIT now report to the Knoxville campus, the problem will be addressed by the campus. A memo about email from Faye Muly was distributed to senators; it will go to all faculty soon. (It was noted that about half the senators present did not receive a recent email from Gross about new senate business.)

Gross is serving on the search committee for the new Director of Institutional Research, who will report to the Provost.

The Board of Trustees meeting is in Martin on March 6-7. Gross will attend. Business will include the approval of new departments of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering in Chattanooga, which is odd in view of the fact that these departments are being merged in Knoxville. The Governor's Academy is moving forward; Vena Long will be the Interim Executive Director. Faculty who teach in the academy will be recompensed with release time and extra service pay. The curriculum will not carry UT course numbers. Approval of the curriculum rests with the Tennessee Department of Education.

Faculty were encouraged to consider teaching First Year seminars.

Chancellor's Report

L. Crabtree sent apologies that he could not attend the meeting.

Provost's Report (R. Holub)

The provost received congratulations from the Faculty Senate on the birth of his baby daughter.

Faculty were again encouraged to teach Freshman Seminars. About 80 seminars will be taught over the two semesters next year. They provide a way for faculty to inspire freshmen and to learn about student experiences.

This is the season for performance evaluations. Promotion and Tenure cases are reaching the provost's office. The university needs to refine the process and procedures for evaluations. Workshops for department heads will be held next January.

The provost is meeting with all newly hired faculty to learn about their experiences. He has established a Provost's Junior Faculty Fellows Group comprised of 16 junior faculty nominated by the deans. The purpose is for feedback and to foster leadership development.

There is a need for better accounting for FTE's at the budget hearings so that the requests for new faculty can be assessed.

B. Lyons, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, asked the provost to encourage deans to see that department by-laws are posted on web sites. The provost agreed to do so.

P. Crilly noted that the merger of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering was never voted upon by the ECE faculty, even though faculty were promised that it would come to a vote at the department level. He noted there was not a formal approval process for the merger which involved faculty.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate

L. Gross noted a change in the agenda from that distributed by mail to add first reading of a change in the Faculty Handbook regarding Joint Faculty Titles. R. Ellis noted that he was present. J. Deeken moved approval of the minutes as corrected. W. Morgan seconded. The minutes of the February 5, 2007, Faculty Senate meeting were approved as modified.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

The Feb. 19, 2007, minutes were available as an information item.

Graduate Council

The minutes of the Feb. 1, 2007, meeting, distributed electronically, were approved as distributed without objection.

Undergraduate Council

J. Romeiser noted small editorial changes to the minutes but offered no other comments. The minutes of the Jan. 30, 2007 meeting, distributed electronically, were approved as distributed without objection.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

1. The second reading of the amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to Amend Article III Section 3 was presented to include the Director of the Chancellors Honors Program as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Undergraduate Council. There was no discussion. The amendment was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The first reading of an amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to Amend Article II Section 3 (Nominating Committee) and an amendment to Article IV Section 6 (University Faculty Council Representatives) were presented by D. Patterson. There was discussion about starting the process to elect council members before the amendment was approved since there are only two remaining senate meetings this year. There was no objection to doing so.
2. A resolution from the Undergraduate Council, approved by the Executive Committee, about the origination of courses was presented to the senate. R. Glenn noted the resolution reaffirms the faculty role in curricula and identifies faculty and departments as the point of origin for new courses. J. Malia asked why the resolution was needed. R. Glenn said it came about after requests for courses came directly from the Provost's office rather than from faculty. With edits to the resolution to replace Undergraduate Council with Faculty Senate, it was unanimously approved.

Whereas, The Faculty Handbook of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, states that "The faculty role in campus-wide governance is through the senate ... to formulate the university's educational standards and degree requirements, including approval of academic programs and their curricula"¹; and

Whereas, The American Association of University Professors states that "The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum [and] subject matter and methods of instruction ..." ²; and

Whereas, The primacy of faculty control in decisions concerning curriculum is consistent with University of Tennessee, Knoxville, traditions;

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate reaffirms the primacy of faculty control of curricular decisions, including the origination of course proposals.

¹ The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Faculty Handbook, §1.6 (chancellor.tennessee.edu/facultyhandbook/index.shtml).

² "Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities" (1966), *Policy Documents and Reports*, 9th edn. (Washington, DC: AAUP, 2001): 221.

3. A resolution from the Budget and Planning Committee about the UT purchase of surface-mined coal was presented by J. Nolt. The origin of the resolution was the Student Renewable Energy Conference. A similar resolution has been passed by the Graduate Student Senate, and a resolution will come before SGA. M. Fitzgerald applauded the spirit of the resolution, but expressed concerns about the environmental impact of deep-mined coal. Nolt replied that the grades of local coals from surface and deep mines is similar, but that surface mining does more harm to the environment. P. Crilly noted the costs of human lives from deep-mined coal. The resolution was approved with two abstentions.

Resolution for Socially and Environmentally Responsible Coal Purchasing

WHEREAS, the university has taken steps to become more sustainable through the Make Orange Green campaign, and

WHEREAS, the University has adopted an environmental policy stating,

“The university will ensure full compliance with existing environmental laws and regulation, and will seek to lead the community to developing beneficial laws and regulations,” and

WHEREAS, some of the University’s coal contractors have a history of violating the conditions of their permits in the state of Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, surface mining causes ecological damage, decline in local economies, and threats to the safety and health of surrounding citizens, and

WHEREAS, although there are known safety issues involved in deep-mining for coal, surface mining is more detrimental to local communities and environments,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

In order to meet its coal needs, the University shall wherever feasible purchase coal that is not surface-mined.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That

1. the University shall not purchase coal from companies with substantial outstanding violations of state or federal environmental regulations and
 2. contracts shall be written so that the occurrence of such substantial violations on the part of the coal supplier is grounds for termination by the University.
4. A proposed change to the Faculty Handbook regarding joint faculty appointments was presented by B. Lyons for a first reading. While there is no specified procedure for handbook changes, it was agreed to abide by the approval process for Bylaws changes. Lyons noted this was the process used for the handbook revisions. Replying to a question by W. Morgan, Lyons said the change formalizes an ad hoc policy. S. Martin clarified that we now have a group of 13 employees who have joint academic appointments, but who are paid by ORNL. The change will give them appropriate titles for university accounting purposes and provide a means for departmental evaluation. Minor editing changes were noted. In response to a question by D. Birdwell, Lyons said departmental by-laws would determine the specifics for joint appointments within departments. The senate will vote on the change at the April meeting after receiving a modified version to be composed by Lyons.

J. Deeken, member of the Traffic and Parking Authority, noted there would be no increase in the parking fee this year, and that there are plans for a new parking garage near the "Rock." She noted the Rock would not be removed.

ADJOURMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Candace White, Acting Secretary