

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
February 23, 2009

Absent: Janice Appier, Alvaro Ayo, Roberto Benson, Bill Blass, Thomas Boehm, Bill Bradshaw, Max Cheng, Cathy Cochran, Daniela Corbetta, Steven Dandaneau, Ruth Darling, Jim Drake, Linda Frank, Lee Han, Russel Hirst, Roxanne Hovland, Yuri Kamychkov, John Koontz, Ramon Leon, John Lounsbury, Murray Marks, Mike McKinney, John McRae, Trena Paulus, Rupy Sawhney, Montgomery Smith, Edgar Stach, Marlys Staudt, Patricia Tithof, Michelle Violanti, Pia Wood, Yang Zhong, Svetlana Zivanovic

J. Nolt called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of a Quorum (S. Kurth)

S. Kurth reported a quorum was present.

President's Report (J. Nolt)

J. Nolt indicated two important events had occurred. The first was the passage of the federal stimulus package. It was not clear whether the federal stimulus package money would prevent the elimination of jobs, but in any case it would not help solve long term problems. The second event was the resignation of President Petersen and the interim appointment of J. Simek beginning March 1. He continues to emphasize the importance of keeping teachers in the classroom.

Nolt mentioned that one item on the board agenda (Tab 13) is "Report on Academic Program Consolidations and Potential Discontinuance of Academic Programs." The proposed consolidations at UTK are:

1. Consolidation of MSW program in Memphis with Nashville and Knoxville sites
2. Merger, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
3. Possible suspension of admissions into MSN specializations

Programs Undergoing Review and Possible Discontinuance are:

1. Dance minor
2. Industrial and Organizational Psychology (PhD)
3. Public Safety (MS)
4. Instructional Technology (EdS)
5. Educational Administration (EdS)
6. Consumer Services Management (MS)
7. Undergrad programs in Italian, Russian, German, Art History, Religious Studies, Geology, Public Administration, and Materials Science and Engineering.

Many of these are on the list because they were classified by THEC as "low producing."

Nolt mentioned that another item on the board agenda was an Honorary Doctorate in Humane and Musical Letters for Dolly Parton. He said that publicity that said the Senate had approved this was in error. It was approved by a committee appointed in accord with the honorary degree policy that the Senate passed at its January meeting.

Nolt said the members of the Senate's Legislative task force have met with Senators Jamie Woodson and Dolores Gresham and with Reps. Harry Brooks, David Hawk and Ryan Haynes. Their consistent messages to legislators have been: tuition flexibility and keeping teachers in the classroom.

Tennessee University Faculty Senates will hold a legislative Action Day Tuesday, February 24 and a retreat on April 3-5. Topics of the retreat will include coordinated lobbying and the potential reorganization of Higher Education in Tennessee.

T. Onami asked with regard to the honorary degree whether Senate approval was being sought. Nolt said it was not, as honorary degrees needed to be handled confidentially, until a decision was made.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

Chancellor Cheek indicated that the three weeks he had been in office had been busy with travel to Oak Ridge and Knoxville, as well as meetings with every Dean. He indicated he was impressed by the UTK faculty and its students. He was going over strategic objectives as he met with the faculty of each college. He said it was unclear how the stimulus package would affect the campus, but any money received would be put against non-recurring issues. He indicated he too had read about restoration to both 2008 and 2006 levels of funding, but he did not know which it would be. A list of requests totaling \$500 million could be put forward immediately. The campus is finalizing the list for the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting.

The budget document to be presented to the Board would be predicated on a 9% tuition increase. The campus has \$10 million in fixed costs that are not covered. Despite the reduction in consumption, the costs of utility rose due to rate increases and bringing the Haslam Business Building on line (as it is substantially larger than the building it replaced). In addition, money was needed for promotion and tenure raises and to cover an increase in graduate student health insurance. A 7% tuition increase would be needed to address the \$10 million in needs and a 9% increase would cover a little more than fixed costs.

B. Lyons said D. Barlow was active in planning for the campus. He requested that Cheek talk about planning and how the campus could be involved in it. Cheek noted how rapidly planning is done and buildings are built. He said he realized it was an issue. Lyons followed up with a plea for broad participation in planning. Cheek said he had talked with J. Maples about long-term building. They have talked about the importance of expediting building projects to get the best value [for dollars allocated]. D. Birdwell brought up the programs potentially slated for closure because of low productivity. Birdwell noted that he had already pointed out flaws in the data being used to establish low productivity and argued it provided a poor basis for decision making. Cheek said he remembered the question and had a meeting set with Institutional Research. The University cannot be data driven, if there is a lack of good data. He noted there was almost daily fluctuation in the number of students enrolled based on his administrative experience. Yet, he agreed there should be dependable data and that the figures should become increasingly more stable over the course of the term. Birdwell said he wanted quality data to be a priority item. P. Crilly said he understood variation in numbers while students were registering, but noted that Birdwell was concerned about the number of graduates. Cheek clarified that being on the list did not mean a program was being closed, but that its performance was being questioned. Crilly asserted that the numbers should not be in flux at the time of graduation and the fluctuation in the number of the course of a semester should be limited. D. Patterson brought up another issue, the recent phenomenon of encroachment by the system on campus boundaries. He was interested in opportunities over the next two years to address it noting that construction management was a system function and that apparently was causing significant delays. Cheek said his position involved representing the campus everywhere. He noted that he had a talented group of Vice Chancellors and would work with them. He said he had a good relationship with Simek. He met with him recently and thought Simek well understood the core enterprise of the Knoxville campus.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

S. Martin explained that the low-producing programs identified as under consideration or proposed for closure in the materials prepared for the Board of Trustees would not be acted on at its upcoming meeting. Programs on the list were on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's (THEC) list of low producing programs. She asked Deans to look at the programs. She said she had learned about problems with the data. She expected the Deans to consider the units' missions.

She said that the Program Review, Reduction and Reevaluation Task Force (PRRR) was working hard on developing criteria for program review, reallocation or termination. She said everyone knows that the campus does not always get the best data and that she had promised the Executive Committee that she would report back on the data. T. Wang asked whether when THEC pulled data it was for one year or for enough years to establish trends. Martin said the data covered 5 years.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the January 26, 2009, Faculty Senate meeting were moved by J. Romeiser and seconded by J. Kovac. Minutes approved.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes of the February 9, 2009, meeting of the Executive Committee were available as an information item.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Graduate Council Minutes (M. Murray for V. Anfara)

M. Murray briefly reviewed the action items in the minutes of the January 29, 2009, meeting. The Academic Policy Committee accepted a proposal on the graduation fee that would save some processing costs. The now non-refundable fee would carry over. And, the Committee had acted in accord with its practice of accepting up to 9 hours of joint credit, that is, credit in undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition to approving a number of people to direct dissertations, the Committee made it a requirement that a person have dissertation approval to serve on the Committee.

The Council agreed that the typical process of program review was not feasible for terminating programs when budget issues were the driving force and it adopted the PRRR recommendation that allowed for faculty input while bypassing the regular process. He said this action did not mean the Graduate Council would necessarily approve a termination, but if it did, the approval would come to the Faculty Senate through its minutes.

Nolt said the definition of program was lacking in the PRRR document. So the Graduate Council's approval of the PRRR Task Resolution should be addressed separately. A motion to separate it from the remainder of the minutes was made and passed. T. Boulet moved insertion of a definition of program and Birdwell seconded the motion.

Whereas the Undergraduate Council in its January 27 meeting and the Graduate Council in its January 29 meeting, have approved the Procedure for Review of Administrative Proposals to Terminate Programs proposed by the Task Force on Program Review, Reallocation and Reduction, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate has today in approving appropriate sections of the minutes of these councils also approved this Procedure, and

Whereas there is need to eliminate ambiguity as regards what counts as a program for the purposes of this Procedure,

Now be it resolved that the term 'program' as used in the statement of this Procedure be understood to mean "degree program, minor or concentration."

The amendment specifying the definition of program in the PRRR Task Force Resolution passed. The PRRR Task Force resolution in the Graduate Council minutes was then passed. The Graduate Council minutes of January 29, 2009, were approved.

Undergraduate Council Minutes (J. Romeiser)

J. Romeiser reported that at its January 27, 2009, meeting the Undergraduate Council had unanimously approved the PRRR Task Force resolution, so that within its minutes was the same issue of definition of 'program.' He drew attention to the Academic Policy Committee's approval of procedures paralleling those for Graduate Council programs. Various curricular revisions were approved. The General Education Committee revised the second major policy, so that those pursuing a second major would get a waiver for general education requirements. Legislative mandate requires that students graduating with Associates degrees from TBR schools receive a waiver of campus general education requirements. Wang asked whether it was allowed that a student who failed a course multiple times at UTK could complete a requirement by going to a community college and passing the equivalent course. Romeiser said he was not an expert. T. Diacon said that he thought a student could do that and moreover that it might be appropriate. Wang asked whether rules should be reviewed. Romeiser said he knew it was possible for students attempting to complete their foreign language requirement. J. Malia said the advisors in her college said students could not do so, but there was a question of whether it should be possible. Nolt returned to review of the minutes.

As with the Graduate Council minutes, a motion was made to separate the PRRR motion from the remainder of the minutes. Motion to separate approved. Boulet moved to amend the resolution including a definition of program.

Whereas the Undergraduate Council in its January 27 meeting and the Graduate Council in its January 29 meeting, have approved the Procedure for Review of Administrative Proposals to Terminate Programs proposed by the Task Force on Program Review, Reallocation and Reduction, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate has today in approving appropriate sections of the minutes of these councils also approved this Procedure, and

Whereas there is need to eliminate ambiguity as regards what counts as a program for the purposes of this Procedure,

Now be it resolved that the term 'program' as used in the statement of this Procedure be understood to mean "degree program, minor or concentration."

Amendment seconded and approved. Motion to approve the PRRR Resolution as amended made and approved. Minutes of the Undergraduate Council meeting of January 27, 2009, were approved.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Task Force on Faculty Senate Effectiveness: Proposed Bylaws Changes (C. White)

C. White said the Task Force focused on the open-ended comments made to the online survey conducted last fall. She said the key focus had been to optimize delegated authority. The Task Force conferred with Chancellor Simek and Provost Martin, Vice Chancellor Fenwick, Vice President DiPietro, Dean Hodges, the Chairs of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils, and others. She said there were gaps, that is, occasions when the Senate has not had a representative at the "table." As a consequence, the Senate has been in a reactive mode. In the view of the Task Force, some existing committees rarely addressed policy issues leading to a sense of futility. The Task Force attempted to align committees with policy intersections. And, the Task Force thought it would be more efficient to streamline the Executive Committee. To function effectively the Senate needs more administrative support. This was not a good year to receive the increased support requested, but the effort to obtain increased administrative support should continue. The first reading of the proposed changes to the Bylaws would be made by President-elect Boulet. White said the chart distributed with the meeting materials depicted the changes in the committee structure. In addition to proposing modifications to fit the new committee structure the Task Force also "cleaned up" the Bylaws.

Birdwell said he noticed that staggered three year terms were eliminated in several cases. He thought such a change would be a problem for the Appeals Committee. White explained that the Task Force thought of it as a management problem having only a 1/3 time Administrative Assistant. Lyons said that the rules had not always been followed. Birdwell responded that it was significantly different and that he did not think it was that much of a burden for the Nominating Committee to keep track of continuing members. Lyons said a resolution might be to make the percentage of continuing member 50 rather than 30. Nolt pointed out that detailed comments could be made online.

M. Holland said the Athletics Committee would like to direct attention to the NCAA best practices that encouraged each school's faculty senate have a subcommittee that *solely* addresses athletic issues and serves in a liaison capacity. Nolt said the Task Force would be meeting with the Athletics Committee the next week. White said the Task Force did not do away with athletics, it moved the functions of the Athletics Committee to two other areas. Birdwell said given the massive changes being proposed, he assumed that the Bylaws changes would go into effect after committees were appointed this spring. Nolt said the Task Force intended for them to be passed and in effect before committee appointments would be made. Malia said she hoped that the recent change in the administration would allow for discussion of where athletics is run from so that the Athletics Committee could be more meaningful.

C. Pierce said any amendments brought to the March meeting should focus only on the areas of proposed change. They are being called "isolated changes" and would be considered seriatim. Nolt requested that Senators consider proposing amendments before the meeting. Boulet then officially presented the proposed Bylaws changes distributed to Senators in their meeting materials that would be voted on in 28 days at the March Senate meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Library Committee: UT Digital Repository (L. Phillips)

Having a repository is intended to increase the visibility of scholarly work at UT. Many services are available, e.g., materials are archived for preservation. Materials are assigned meta data tags, so they can be picked up by Google. They are willing to meet with individuals or departments about depositing materials.

Teaching Council: Tennessee Teaching and Learning (D. Schumann)

D. Schumann said he had been making presentations to faculty members and gave a brief PowerPoint presentation to the Senate. He drew attention to the Open House being held the next week in Aconda Court. The Center facility includes space for private consultation, a mock classroom, and a research library. In preparation for developing the Center he studied similar centers and interviewed their directors by phone. He learned that over 30% of the new faculty at fall orientation had not taught before (e.g., as graduate students). Among other things in process are a lecturer certification program intended to prepare new lecturers and a fall luncheon series. He said departments had been asked to have Center ambassadors. He said there was a need to continually improve our performance. Contact: tenntlc@utk.edu.

Wang said she welcomed creation of this center, for in a lot of disciplines teaching is in second place. She wanted Schumann to encourage Deans and Department Heads to value teaching.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Senate Elections (T. Boulet)

Boulet said some units had completed their task and others needed to do the same.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kurth, Secretary