

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
MINUTES  
October 20, 2008

Those absent were: Brian Ambroziak, Lt. Col. Michael Angle, David Atkins, Lora Beebe, Roberto Benson, Bill Blass, Thomas Boehm, Bill Bradshaw, Max Cheng, Linden Craig, Paul Crilly, Steven Dandaneau, Ruth Darling, Jim Drake, Mary Gunther\*, Lee Han, Douglas Hayes, Tricia Hepner, Bill Hofmeister, Roxanne Hovland, Yuri Kamychkov, Scott Kinzy, John Koontz, Jeff Kovac, James Larson, Jun Lin, Norman Magden, Murray Marks, Mike McKinney, John McRae, Lynne Parker, Trena Paulus, Lloyd Rinehart\*, W. Tim Rogers, Molly Royse\*, Rupy Sawhney, Jon Shefner, Neal Shover, Montgomery Smith, Marlys Staudt, Johanna Stiebert, Patricia Tithof, Gary Ubben, Michelle Violanti, Tse-Wei Wang, Andrew Wentzel, Tim Young, Yang Zhong

\*Alternate Senators: Carole Myers for Mary Gunther, Keith Stanga for Lloyd Rinehart, Jeanine Williamson for Molly Royse.

J. Nolt called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Establishment of a Quorum (S. Kurth)

S. Kurth reported a quorum was present.

Senate President's Report (J. Nolt)

*Budget.* J. Nolt reported that when the Senate's resolution advocating differential tuition was reported in the newspaper, some legislators were unhappy. Governor Bredesen told the *Chattanooga Free Press* that he would rather see program mergers than tuition increases. The Senate will continue to press for differential tuition.

The budget report was dire. The Audiology and Speech Pathology program is being closed on this campus and is being moved to Memphis. The undergraduate degree programs will eventually be eliminated. The Dance and Industrial and Organizational Psychology (IO) programs are slated for campus closure. The program changes would go through the regular curricular process, but a plan would be submitted to the Board of Trustees later in the week. Both the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils looked at the proposed program closures, but concluded there was not adequate time or information available to make decisions. Nolt said there was a need for a new process. S. Martin's Program Reduction Task Force would begin meeting the next week. Nolt pointed out the need for adequate representation from different colleges made the role of caucus chairs even more important. Caucus chairs were needed for Arts & Sciences—Natural Sciences, Social Work, and Education, Health, and Human Sciences. He asked for volunteers to speak with him after the meeting. The process of budget reduction will be painful. Faculty members will look to campus and system administrators to make cuts too in order to protect the core mission of the University

*Chancellor Search.* The announcement of a new Chancellor would probably be announced later in the week. Nolt was forming an informal advisory group to develop recommendations to put before the new Chancellor. Those recommendations would be given to the Executive Committee and then presented to the Senate at its January meeting.

*Energy Conservation.* The campus has been hit simultaneously by budget cuts and rising energy costs. The Office of Sustainability established during the summer is focused on reducing costs. The "Switch Your Thinking" campaign goal has a 10% cost reduction goal. Energy problems can be

reported via a link on the Make Orange Green site: <http://environment.utk.edu/>. An effort is underway to infuse environmental concerns into the curriculum.

*Survey.* Nolt directed attention to the Faculty Senate Effectiveness survey results included in the materials distributed for the meeting.

*Faculty Council.* The meeting scheduled for the weekend was postponed. Nolt and D. Patterson (replacing B. Lyons) are the campus representatives. Nolt noted the rally the United Campus Workers would be holding at noon Wednesday.

#### Chancellor's Report (J. Simek)

*Budget.* The recent reduction was 3.53% in addition to what had been cut earlier. As it was never clear if it was an impoundment or a permanent cut, the campus could use loose resources to cover it. Units had been told to prepare for a 2% one-time reduction (e.g., instructor money, travel). The differential was covered centrally. The administration is preparing for future budget cuts that probably will necessitate a reduction in force (RIF), and may include a reduction in programs, mission change, and administrative streamlining.

*Chancellor Search.* The Search Committee sent two names to the President and his announcement of his selection would be made soon. Simek said he would leave a blueprint for the new Chancellor. Nimbleness would be needed.

#### Provost's Report (S. Martin)

S. Martin noted that the first class of Chancellor's Professors was being honored that day. The goal is to have a group of 18-20 distinguished faculty members (full professors with five or more years of service at UTK) that would meet and offer advice. The first class was then introduced. She then reported that the recent Deans, Directors and Department Heads' retreat focused on managing and leading in times of change. She directed attention to the information posted on the Provost's web site and expressed the hope that the new Program Reduction Task Force would use it and other materials as resources.

### **MINUTES**

#### Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the September 8, 2008, Faculty Senate meeting were moved by D. Birdwell and seconded by G. Graber. Minutes approved.

#### Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes of the October 6, 2008, meeting of the Executive Committee were available as an information item.

### **MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY**

#### Graduate Council Minutes (V. Anfara)

Nolt pointed out that the minutes of the Graduate Council and the Undergraduate Council contained program closure reports. Senate approval of Council minutes puts into effect actions within them.

V. Anfara reported the Council met August 28 and September 28. The committee structure was reviewed and each committee is in the process of establishing bylaws. He pointed out the recommendations of the Credentials Committee. Various colleges had curricular changes. The Executive Committee is working on a policy for awarding honorary degrees at UTK.

M. Murray, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Program Closure, reported on the Committee's activities since it was formed in mid-August. To evaluate the soundness of closing the IO and Audiology and Speech Pathology programs they considered the RR Task Force guidelines. The Committee realized it did not have the time or resources to do what was needed and that the RR Task Force guidelines were never approved by anyone. The Committee reported to the Council that they did not see that two programs could be reviewed in isolation. The report did not take an up or down stance on the proposed closures, but rather recommended a focus on process. The Council accepted the Committee's recommendation with one person abstaining.

J. Heminway asked what would happen next with the report. Nolt said he thought it would be passed on to the Board of Trustees and the Program Reduction Task Force. J. Hall asked about budget cuts beyond those involved in the proposed program closures, e.g., reduction in faculty size. She wondered whether there should be a broader process. Nolt said there were policies that addressed dire situations that constituted financial exigency (e.g., AAUP Redbook). The big gap in his view was having a way for faculty members and administrators to work together on budget cuts. J. Malia said what was not in place was planning for who would be involved. Hall expressed the desire to be as responsive as possible. Report approved.

#### Undergraduate Council Minutes

Minutes of the September 16, 2008, meeting was approved.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### Budget and Planning Committee: Faculty Salary Report (D. Bruce)

The report was included in the materials distributed for the meeting. The Budget and Planning Committee is working on a supplementary report that considers part time faculty pay and administrative salary comparisons.

### **NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Athletic Committee (M. Holland)

At the behest of the Athletic Committee, Athletic Director Mike Hamilton gave a power point presentation that provided information and addressed questions received prior to the meeting. His report is available at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/index.html>. Hamilton said his goal since being appointed in 2003 was to be an open book. He encouraged people with questions to contact him at [mhamilton@tennesse.edu](mailto:mhamilton@tennesse.edu). And, he expressed the hope that he would have the opportunity to meet with the Senate more often.

Hamilton was asked about coordination on the advertising promoting the campus during televised athletic events. He said the University (not the Athletic Department) provides the advertisements aired during games. There is a new television contract. There will be online ESPN360.com. The University will determine the content for ESPNU and it will be all academically driven.

J. Conant asked whether Hamilton would donate \$500,000 for the new Chancellor's use. Hamilton said the University requires Athletics to keep a 6-8% reserve. He had talked with the Chancellor and the President about the new contract and funds available to the University.

Hamilton was asked whether there was any information about post college activities or if there was only information about graduation rates. He indicated there were no post college data. D. Patterson asked about the graduation rate for football players. For football the rate is 54%. The rate needs to improve for basketball players. Patterson also asked about the possible impact of the current economic downturn. Hamilton replied that it might impact major gifts, that is, people may delay making major donations. A recent budget cutting exercise was conducted in anticipation of an

anticipated shortfall due to such things as increased transportation costs. He noted there are always risks with dependence on discretionary revenue. One Senator commented on the change in the football ticket benefit (increased cost of tickets). Hamilton noted there is a faculty/staff pool of tickets. This year some tickets were available for those who did not have them and he anticipates there will be some available next year. It turned out to be a bad time for an increase.

Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS): Membership (J. Nolt)

The President of the Faculty Senate at ETSU last spring initiated a meeting of representative from four-year state institutions. The goal was to create an organization of faculty senates that would facilitate communication and cooperation, as well as foster shared governance. A constitution was drawn up at an August meeting. Each school would be represented at meetings held twice a year. The Executive Committee passed a resolution proposing the UTK Faculty Senate join the organization. Nolt was asked who would pay for travel to the meetings. He replied that funds would come from the Senate budget. The costs should be limited as the meetings would be in state and held at state parks. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kurth, Secretary