

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
MINUTES  
September 8, 2008

Those absent were: Alvaro Ayo, Roberto Benson, Stephen Blackwell, Bill Blass, Thomas Boehm, Bill Bradshaw, Cathy Cochran, Daniela Corbetta, Steven Dandaneau, Jim Drake, Lee Han, Tricia Hepner, Russel Hirst, Bill Hofmeister, Roxanne Hovland, Yuri Kamyckov, Scott Kinzy, John Koontz, Jun Lin, John Lounsbury, Norman Magden, Murray Marks, John McRae, Jay Pfaffman, Lloyd Rinehart\*, W. Tim Rogers, Rupy Sawhney, Montgomery Smith, Johanna Stiebert, Matthew Theriot, Patricia Tithof, Michelle Violanti, Peiling Wang, Michael Wirth, Yang Zhong, Svetlana Zivanovic\*

\*Alternate Senators: Carol Jones for Svetlana Zivanovic, Randall Pierce for Lloyd Rinehart

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

### Establishment of Quorum (S. Kurth)

S. Kurth confirmed that a quorum was present.

### Announcements (J. Nolt)

J. Nolt introduced President-Elect T. Boulet, Co-Parliamentarians B. Jacobs and C. Pierce, Secretary S. Kurth, Information Officer, S. Ohnesorg, and Past-President D. Patterson. He requested that caucus chairs send their contact information to S. Simmons (ss@utk.edu). He alerted faculty to a number of events that would be held for "Make Orange Green Week." Athletic Director M. Hamilton is scheduled to speak at the October 20 Senate meeting. Senators were encouraged to send questions in advance of the meeting to Athletics Committee Chair M. Holland (msholland@utk.edu). He announced the goal of keeping the Senate paperless as much as possible.

### Senate President's Report (J. Nolt)

J. Nolt noted the University's financial woes had led to various actions. The Faculty Senate objected to the program terminations proposed in late spring on the basis of the Senate's designated authority to approve actions on academic programs. Consideration of the program closures was delayed until the Board of Trustees meeting on October 23 and 24. Interim Chancellor Simek announced in August that the Audiology and Speech Pathology programs would be continued in some form, although not necessarily as part of the Knoxville campus. The bodies delegated academic program review authority, the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils, were engaged in the process of reviewing the programs proposed for termination. The councils are scheduled to report the results of their reviews at the October 20 Faculty Senate meeting.

Nolt depicted the budget situation for the coming year as dire. The Chancellor asked the Deans to consider various scenarios. Additional program closures might be proposed. A new task force was scheduled to begin meeting to establish criteria for identifying programs for closure. Nolt noted that Past President Patterson had proposed differential tuition for UTK in his comments to the Board and the Senate would continue to advocate for it throughout the year. Also, in concert with the campus administration the Senate would advocate for increased energy efficiency, as the campus is particularly vulnerable to rising energy costs. He noted again the energy conservation program, called "Switch Your Thinking" being initiated later in the week. Former Chancellor Crabtree committed the campus to the long-term goal of climate neutrality. Under that plan, ideas about energy conservation would be introduced into the curriculum.

The search for a new Chancellor was underway. Senators were encouraged to attend the public forums that would be held for all candidates or to listen to the webcasts. Nolt suggested that Senators consult with their colleagues at the candidates' home institutions.

The last Faculty Senate meeting ended in controversy. A debate over conducting a survey to evaluate the President ended when a quorum was lost. Nolt said in his view and the Executive Committee's it would be counterproductive to pursue conducting a survey as relations with the system had improved. Under the leadership of J. Poore, IT problems were being resolved. The appointment of L. Hendricks as Vice President was another helpful step. Some consultation about the future of Cherokee Farm has taken place. Nolt and Patterson consulted with Vice President Zacharia, although much remains unclear. Nolt expressed concern that a new master plan may represent a weakening of institutional commitment to sustainability, that the planning committee meets irregularly, and that resources might be diverted from fulfilling the campus mission to developing the Cherokee Farm.

A new initiative involves evaluation of the Senate, as the Senate does not do some things well. At the suggestion of C. White, Nolt appointed a Task Force on Senate Effectiveness over the summer. White serves as Chair of the Task Force composed of faculty and administrators. The Task Force has met and the goal is to have it report to the Senate before the end of the academic year. To keep accurate records Senators need to pick up their nameplates and alternates need to sign in and indicate for whom they are substituting. Senators were encouraged to limit making impromptu resolutions from the floor after committees have extensively worked on proposals and to express their concerns prior to Senate meetings (e.g., via e-mail and the listserv). Written copies of any such resolutions should be given to the Secretary.

#### President's Report (J. Petersen)

The President commended the Chancellor's Search Committee for the excellent job it did. At the request of the Search Committee he would be meeting with the candidates to answer questions during their visits. He said he was glad to see the Senate's paperless agenda. He noted that J. Poore was doing a great job with IT supporting the assessment that the problem was not the quality of UT's IT personnel, but rather one of leadership.

The budget is an issue. Petersen indicated he was an advocate of strategic cuts. He concurred that the proposed program cuts represented a rushed issue and that pulling the trigger on reductions was a complicated matter. This year the University was out in front of the curve already making plans for a base budget reduction for next year. He noted that the question of differential tuition had been brought up. He suggested that talking about percentages was probably not a good tactic as the percentage was low this year. He recommended looking at states like North Carolina to formulate the differential tuition argument. Comparable institutions that are funded through state appropriations constitute the best comparisons. The University cannot manage another year with a 6% tuition increase and the legislature has been informed that that is the case. He announced that the next day he would be meeting with various constituencies around the state and letting them know that the University's people were not receiving competitive compensation packages.

He lauded Oak Ridge National Laboratory noting that it was an asset that other institutions would like to have. The current strategy is to build larger projects. Emphasis should be on the fees being generated by projects, as they are not taking away resources but rather adding them. Currently, partners in Memphis are being connected with ORNL.

He said there was a commitment to make Cherokee Farm a sustainable green campus. Gresham Smith would look into that and might bring in a consultant. The project needed to be underway.

Three buildings are planned with additional buildings possible. The University needs to promote research, i.e., it was flat the past three years. B. Fenwick has been working on it.

He reviewed various personnel changes. Everyone knows what J. Poore has done. L. Hendricks brings a different orientation to Human Resources, an emphasis on helping units look forward through strategic planning. He was sad to lose B. Levy.

The University faces many challenges, but there are opportunities. Most community colleges in the state are jammed. The University needs to do a better job of getting those students into UT. Articulation needs to be improved. Differential tuition is something to consider. There are a number of different unique pieces. One year there was differential tuition. Compared to other states, Tennessee is actually in the minority in that UT's tuition and Board of Regent schools' tuition are so closely bunched. The state has a history of making higher end enterprises (e.g., UTK and Memphis) less or under compensated. He cautioned against invoking the lottery scholarships in making an argument for higher tuition as legislators see it as an aid.

T. Wang asked about articulation, specifically whether a task force would track what happens to transfer students after they arrive on campus. She then requested that such tracking occur. Petersen replied that based on anecdotal information the students transferring from Mississippi State do as well as other students, noting that not all community college students are admitted to UT. Governor Bredesen has been concerned about transfer students wasting time retaking credits.

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

J. Simek addressed the environment/energy issue noting the "Switch Your Thinking" campaign aimed at voluntary conservation. He elaborated that it would probably be followed by mandatory changes. He explained that if energy costs were not controlled they would serve as permanent budget cuts. The new coal contract was effectively a 1 or 2 million dollar budget cut. The recent TVA rate increase represents another substantial problem.

R. Leon asked why the Senate meeting room and others on campus were freezing. Simek explained that the monitoring system was archaic. D. Barlow said they were concerned about what to do. There is a need for energy managers to evaluate buildings. P. Crilly said some buildings like Ferris Hall were hot in the winter. J. Kovac pointed out that control problems notwithstanding, the current situation in part reflected years of deferred maintenance (lack of caulking and replacement windows). Simek replied that planned renovations include energy saving changes, e.g., replacement windows. He noted that people have made all kinds of personal comfort accommodations (e.g., heaters, fans, refrigerators) that consume considerable energy. Nolt encouraged people to send comments to him and M. English, Co-Chairs of the Committee on the Campus Environment.

Simek encouraged Senators to go see the Chancellor candidates. He asked that Senators be positive in their comments, while communicating a clear picture to candidates.

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

S. Martin noted that as a member of the Chancellor's Search Committee, she would like for Senators to provide their opinions on the candidates. Student retention is important. This summer a new program prepared 55 academically qualified students who face some challenges. She also noted the new Haslam Scholars and study abroad efforts. She reported the Enrollment Management Committee is going to focus on transfer students, i.e., articulation. S. Gardial is working with the Faculty Affairs Committee and the task force focused on program reductions.

## **MINUTES**

### Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 21, 2008, were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

### Faculty Senate Executive Committee

The minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting of August 25, 2008, were available as an information item.

## **MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY**

### Graduate Council

The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 21, 2008, were moved, seconded, and approved.

### Undergraduate Council

The minutes of the Undergraduate Council meeting of April 22, 2008, were moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

## **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

There was no previous business.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Heminway)

Last spring the Senate approved substantial changes in the *Faculty Handbook* with reference to the Ombuds position (e.g., three part-time faculty members to one full-time non-faculty person, a service for staff as well as faculty). J. Malia has served on the search committee. Malia reported that there had been 9 telephone interviews. Three people will be invited to campus with the goal of having someone no later than the beginning of the next term.

Heminway stated that the Committee had three focuses this year:

- One was examination of the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* to address issues such as department head evaluations. She noted that any changes would require two readings, so Senators would have ample opportunity to submit their comments before any changes would be voted on.
- The annual evaluation process would be another focus.
- Cumulative Performance Review is the third focus as the *Faculty Handbook* does not conform with the Board of Trustees' guidelines.

Send comments to [jheminwa@utk.edu](mailto:jheminwa@utk.edu).

## **NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Differential Tuition Resolution (D. Patterson)

D. Patterson introduced a differential tuition resolution. The proposal would be from the Faculty to the Chancellor and President for the October Board of Trustees meeting. He corrected Nolt saying that he did not make the differential tuition proposal to the Board of Trustees.

J. Malia pointed out that President Petersen noted the need to collect data and asked what had been done. Patterson replied the Chancellor's office would collect the data. A question was raised about whether the wording should be about differential tuition or differential rate of tuition increase. Patterson said he had Googled the topic and found both wordings. The resolution passed unanimously.

### **The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate Resolution on Differential Tuition for The University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

*WHEREAS, in accordance with the UT-Knoxville Faculty Handbook, "the faculty role in campus-wide governance is through the senate;" and*

*WHEREAS, the Faculty Handbook conveys to its constituency the responsibility "to consider, advise, and recommend to the administration policies about a wide range of issues affecting the general welfare of the faculty;" and*

*WHEREAS, UT Knoxville is both the flagship campus of The University of Tennessee and its only Research University institution as designated by the Carnegie Foundation; and*

*WHEREAS, the costs associated with the provision of education and the conduct of research are necessarily higher at research universities; and*

*WHEREAS, differential tuition rates for research universities is a widely accepted practice in multiple states;*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT*** *the Faculty Senate respectfully requests that President Petersen and Interim Chancellor Simek present The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees with a proposal for a differential rate of tuition for The University of Tennessee Knoxville at the Trustees October 2008 meeting, and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*** *this Resolution become part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on September 8, 2008.*

Note: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as RU/VH: research university with very high research activity. This is the highest research designation for a public university in the state of Tennessee. By comparison The University of Memphis is designated as RU/H: a research university with high research activity and The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga is designated as Master's L: Masters Colleges and Universities, larger programs.

### Recognition of Former Parliamentarian O. Stephens

Patterson presented a resolution recognizing the service of O. Stephens that was approved by unanimous consent.

*The University of Tennessee  
Faculty Senate*

*WHEREAS, Dr. Otis Stephens has admirably and worthily served as Parliamentarian to the Senate for five full academic years over two terms; and*

*WHEREAS, he has become the leading authority and voice with respect to all parliamentary procedural matters, be it simple or a myriad of complexity; and*

*WHEREAS, he is well-known as one of the United States' preeminent scholars of American Constitutional Law, authoring five books on the subject, as well as numerous other articles and book reviews; and*

*WHEREAS, furthermore, he has humbly and graciously served as a leading advocate for the blind and visually-impaired community nationwide, receiving the American Foundation for the Blind's highest possible honor for his efforts in promoting service delivery to the blind, as well as for his accomplishments in furthering Braille literacy;*

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

*Dr. Otis Stephens*

*For his exemplary leadership and service not only to the Senate as its long-time Parliamentarian, but for his revered and profound contribution to the greater good of The University of Tennessee; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be presented to Otis Stephens, and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on September 8, 2008.*

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*Suzanne Kurth*  
*Secretary*

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*David Patterson*  
*President, 2007-2008*

Recognition of Past President D. Patterson

Nolt presented a resolution recognizing D. Patterson that was approved by unanimous consent.

*The University of Tennessee*  
*Faculty Senate*

*WHEREAS, Professor David A. Patterson is a highly respected colleague, teacher, scholar and citizen; and*

*WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2007-2008 academic year, elevating the prestige of the Senate within the University community by his assertive leadership and speaking truth to administrative power at the campus, system and board levels; and*

*WHEREAS, he has served the interests of faculty, staff, and students by promoting the ideals of shared governance, diversity in hiring, improved management of Information Technology, a sound campus alcohol policy, faculty participation in the development of Cherokee Farm, and differential tuition increases for UT's Flagship Campus and*

*WHEREAS, he has also served the Senate and the Faculty of this campus as a member of the UT Faculty Council; and*

*WHEREAS, he has worked tirelessly to communicate the activities of the Senate to faculty 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*

*Professor David A. Patterson*

*for his 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 Professor David A. Patterson and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on September 8, 2008.*

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*Suzanne Kurth*  
*Secretary*

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*John E. Nolt*  
*President*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne B. Kurth, Secretary