

Faculty Senate Executive Council
MINUTES
October 4, 2010

Present: Joan Heminway, Toby Boulet, JoAnne Deeken, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Doug Birdwell, Jimmy Cheek, Chris Cimino, Michael Essington, John Koontz, India Lane, Beauvais Lyons, Susan Martin, Carole Myers, Conrad Plaut, Lloyd Rinehart, Anne Smith, Ken Stephenson, Steve Thomas

Guests: Lee Riedinger (who joined the meeting only for his presentation)

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Heminway called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Council meeting of August 30, 2010, was made and seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. REPORTS

President's Report (J. Heminway)

A. Update on UT Presidential Search

On or about October 6, Heminway will receive a list of questions that faculty can use to ask references to get background information on candidates. She will distribute this list to all faculty along with a request that faculty gather this kind of information about candidates. Her communication to faculty will tell faculty to whom the information obtained should be sent. Heminway also encourages all faculty to attend open meetings with the candidates and ask relevant questions. Executive Council members were asked to reserve time to attend the meetings.

B. Update on VOL Vision 2015

The VOL Vision 2015 was discussed at the Dean, Director, and Department Head (DDDH) retreat meeting held on October 3-4, 2010. That group provided lots of supportive and helpful comments. There were also many good comments submitted over the Web and in the community forums. The comments, in general, were targeted and focused. The plan will be revised to reflect resulting refinements.

C. Update on Program Discontinuance Proposals

A meeting is scheduled for October 5 to discuss the discontinuance proposals for the Russian and Italian majors.

D. Elections for 2011-2012

In Dr. Anfar's absence, Heminway reported that all caucus chairs will soon be asked to identify/help/sponsor candidates for the elected Senate positions. Current committee chairs will soon be asked if they would like to continue next year in their current positions. If they will not be serving in these capacities, they will be asked to submit names for their replacements.

E. Other

We're going electronic. Faculty course evaluations by students will be electronic this year for those who choose that option. Online faculty evaluations of Deans and Department Heads have already been distributed. As we make these transitions, glitches will happen. If anyone has substantive (non-technical) comments, questions, or suggestions, he or she may contact either Provost Martin or Heminway.

Some problems with Banner have already been reported. One in particular about system sign off caused concern. If someone accesses their account on a public computer (such as those in a computer lab or the library), his or her private information could potentially be seen by others. OIT has found and is testing a solution, but still strongly recommends that students take precautionary measures as they leave a computer. C. Myers noted that signage with instructions was posted near public access computers in the library. Scott Studham is acting quickly on all reported problems but it may take up to six months for all problems to be finally resolved. All technical issues relating to Banner should be reported to Studham. Academic issues on Banner should be reported to Provost Martin. Overall, according to Provost Martin, everyone is pleased with online registration through Banner. Thousands have registered without issues. At the DDDH retreat, MyUTK was demonstrated. Heminway described the system as interesting.

Heminway requests that faculty continue to send her additional faculty success stories (regarding teaching, outreach, and/or service).

All members were reminded about deadlines for Faculty Senate materials. The Faculty Senate Agenda for the October 18 meeting will be finalized and released on Monday, October 11. All requests from committees for reports to be given at meetings need to be sent to Heminway before that date. In addition, S. Ohnesorg needs them before she can distribute the Faculty Senate newsletter. The Graduate Council will be presenting a new Ph.D. program at the October meeting. This will be discussed later in the meeting. B. Lyons asked about the schedule for presenting amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws. Heminway informed him that she and V. Anfara expect to have these ready for presentation for a first reading at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

Heminway asked the Provost about planned hybrid courses in foreign languages. She wondered about the status with the Undergraduate Council. Some faculty were concerned about the proposed decrease in face-to-face classroom time and discussion in the languages. Provost Martin replied that the initiative came from the department and involves faculty input. Heminway indicated that there might be a breakdown in communication. Provost Martin indicated she would address the matter in her report.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

Chancellor Cheek encouraged the Faculty Senate to be involved in the interview process for the UT System President. Dates of the public forums have been published. They are October 12 and 13. All are encouraged to send feedback to Heminway after attending the forums.

There will be a gubernatorial debate cosponsored by the Baker Center on Thursday, October 7 at 8 PM in the Cox Auditorium of the Alumni Memorial Building. This will be the only debate in East Tennessee. While it will be broadcast live throughout the state, attendance is encouraged.

Dr. Cheek reported that there has been significant improvement in the diversity of faculty on campus. The percentage of African-American tenured or tenure track faculty on the Knoxville campus is the largest in five years. The percentage of both Hispanic and Native American tenured or tenure track faculty is the greatest in six years.

Dr. Cheek was asked about the change in the title used in advertisements for the Vice Chancellor for Research. The existing position is titled "Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement." Chancellor Cheek responded that this did not signify a lessening of the importance of engagement to the campus. He reported that most institutions seemed to advertise similar positions without including the "engagement" portion. He presented this data and his personal opinion to the Search Committee, who decided to drop "engagement" from the title used in the announcement. If the person hired has the interest, skills, and experience in managing and leading engagement and wants the title, it will be added to the title. However, it was determined that leaving it in the title and job description might deter some qualified applicants for the position. If the person hired does not assume the leadership role in engagement, those responsibilities will be assigned to someone else. Chancellor Cheek promised that he would meet with the Academic Outreach and Engagement Council to discuss the search and the titling of the position.

D. Birdwell questioned the Chancellor about intellectual property rights in relation to the Office of Research and the Research Foundation. Birdwell identified important issues that seemed to emanate from the lack of a clear policy and poor legal drafting. Chancellor Cheek was hesitant to speak to specifics without more detail and time. In general, he recognized this is a critical area for UT that needs to improve: The Research Foundation should be working with UT faculty to get projects to market and generate royalties. Heminway suggested that some professors in the College of Law might be able to help on the drafting issues.

B. Lyons reminded all that the 50th anniversary of African American students at UT is next year. He asked the Chancellor how we would be celebrating. He feels it is important that announcements be made so colleges can begin planning "bottom up" celebrations. Chancellor Cheek replied that Charles Houston was heading the group preparing for the celebration. That group was working on basic timelines. There was concern from several members that, with the celebration starting in January, this late notice is not giving the colleges much time to prepare. After discussion, it was decided the Faculty Senate Executive Council was the appropriate group to be the contact on this issue. The Chancellor agreed to arrange for Houston to attend a subsequent meeting so that Executive Council members can determine how best to pass information on to their committee members and colleges and departments.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

The Provost was very optimistic about the VOL Vision strategic plan and the Top 25 quest. The next phase will include the generation of initiatives and metrics as we move towards implementation of the plan. The Provost senses much positive energy around implementation. The Executive Council generally supported that view.

She reported further on the hybrid course issue. She has been working with the College of Arts and Sciences on online course components. The idea of offering hybrid courses for elementary Spanish and French in a hybrid manner came from the department of Modern Foreign

Languages and Literatures (MFL). The Provost does not think the College is ready to implement hybrid courses in MFL this year. The idea is that two days per week the classes would meet with a professor in the usual manner. The third day, the classes would have instruction delivered online. Distance education classes are already offered with online language instruction, and it has been very successful.

Provost Martin also announced the appointment of Jon Shefner to the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Research, at the request of the Research Council.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Heminway reported that each of the five Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) proposals approved in September by the Faculty Senate were supported by a majority of TUFS campuses.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Faculty Senate meetings in 2011/2012

Since V. Anbara was not able to attend the meeting, Heminway presented the draft schedule for Faculty Senate and Executive Council meetings next year. After discussion, the approved dates were:

Faculty Senate Retreat: August 26

Faculty Senate Executive Council and Faculty Senate meeting dates:

Faculty Senate Executive Council	Faculty Senate
August 29, 2011	September 19, 2011
October 3, 2011	October 17, 2011
November 7, 2011	November 21, 2011
January 23, 2012	February 6, 2012
February 20, 2012	March 5, 2012
March 12, 2012	April 2, 2012
April 23, 2012	May 7, 2012

B. Benefits and Professional Development Committee Report

A. Smith, Committee Chair, reported on the Committee's work on the state health insurance changes effective January 1, 2011. The Committee has had contacts with Linda Hendricks, Jim Wilson, and Rob Chance on this issue. Smith shared a document the committee had prepared entitled "LIST OF MISCONCEPTIONS/MYTHS ABOUT THE UTK INSURANCE CHOICES." A copy of the document was distributed at the meeting. Summarized, the Benefits Office is recommending everyone sign up for the partnership plan. They urged the committee to share this recommendation with all faculty. The Committee is doing a survey to find out how our plan compares with plans at other colleges and universities. Heminway was urged to share the work of the committee (and especially the list of misconceptions/myths and their resolution) with all faculty members. Heminway said that she would add mention of this with links to the relevant information in her message to faculty on the UT Presidential search. There were some questions/issues with Eddison. People need confirmation (especially for those submitting in

paper) that UT received their insurance selection forms. The Executive Council recommended that the Benefits and Professional Development Committee continue to track issues related to this change in benefits.

C. General Education Courses

Birdwell brought up an issue with respect to General Education courses. The Legislature approved differential tuition for the Colleges of Engineering, Business, and Nursing. At the same time, the Department of Philosophy is dropping courses in Ethics required by the College of Engineering. When approached, the Department of Philosophy offered to reinstate the courses, but only if the College of Engineering paid for them. The timing could be a coincidence, but Birdwell's position was that required courses should be continued. The differential tuition is based on an understanding that some classes are just more expensive to offer than others. It appears not everyone is "rowing the boat" together. Provost Martin responded that the Department of Philosophy had undergone a program review last year. The report took issue with the number of applied philosophy courses being taught at the expense of standard philosophy. The new Department Head is implementing its suggestions from the report. The department therefore has determined to teach more standard philosophy courses and drop support for applied ethics. The Provost reported that the College of Business is willing to pay for their required ethics courses. Engineering will need to be creative in providing the ethics courses needed for their accreditation. Lyons also responded. He noted that the College of Arts and Sciences is taking the brunt of the effects of the 4200 new students admitted each year. The General Education courses are mainly offered in that college and they have to find a way to cover them all with budget cuts. The Provost reiterated that her office is trying to find support for the academic departments most affected.

D. Civility Committee

Heminway noted that the Chancellor had circulated the report of his Civility Task Force for review by various campus constituencies, including his commissions. The Executive Council discussed issues at the intersection of civility and free expression. Chancellor Cheek replied that these lines are not easy to define. Lyons said both academic freedom and artistic freedom are prime concerns for our community. He also reminded the Executive Council that the university has multiple non-discrimination statements. These all need to be identified and one statement used uniformly. Chancellor Cheek said the report tried to use existing documents and not create completely new ones. Birdwell suggested incivility should be seen as a "teaching moment." There will always be incidents in a campus this large, but what is important is the response to the incident. It was decided that the report of the Task Force be presented as an information item at the October Faculty Senate meeting and a vote on endorsement be taken at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

E. CIRE

L. Riedinger joined the meeting and spoke about the proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education. This new Center is proposing a new Ph.D. program in Energy Science and Engineering. This program is on a fast track with the first students proposed to be admitted for the Fall 2011 semester, pending approval of the program. In order to do this, the state legislature must approve the program in November. Before the proposal can be presented to the legislature, it must be passed by the Faculty Senate in October. The planned program could award up to 277 degrees by 2020. The idea is to utilize the researchers and facilities at ORNL in cooperation with the academics at UTK. The degree is designed to be

interdisciplinary, allowing study in the Colleges of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Agriculture. M. Essington, Chair of the Graduate Council, said the proposal met all the requirements imposed by the graduate school through the Graduate Council and had been approved by the council. It will come to the Senate at the October meeting. Several people asked questions about the integrity of the program, the competition for graduate students, and the academic quality of the program. Riedinger promised to work with faculty on implementation issues, which comprised the major part of the unresolved issues. He also said that he would come to the October Faculty Senate meeting in case there are questions.

When the Senate votes on acceptance of the Graduate Council minutes at the meeting this month, they are voting on the creation of this program. All need to understand this. Essington was asked to make this clear when he presents the minutes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved, second, and approved.