

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
MINUTES  
October 18, 2010

Absent: Lt. Col. Michael Angle, Chris Cimino, Jim Conant, Sherry Cox, Steven Dandaneau, Jim Drake, Ruth Darling\*, Jerzy Dydak, Matthew Gray\*, Federico Harte, Russel Hirst, Robert Jones, Jeff Kovac, Jun Lin, Bruce MacLennan\*, Mary McAlpin, Lane Morris, Lynne Parker, W. Tim Rogers, Rupy Sawhney, Gregory Sedrick, Edgar Stach, Marlys Staudt, Michael Stewart, Scott Wall, Jeanine Williamson\*, Debbie Wooten, Yang Zhong

\*Alternate Senators: Steve Thomas for Jeanine Williamson, Sharon Jean-Philippe for Matthew Gray, Anton Reece for Ruth Darling, Michael Thomason for Bruce MacLennan, Patricia A. Carter, Susan Speraw

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Establishment of a Quorum (J. Deeken)

J. Deeken announced a quorum was present.

### **REPORTS**

President's Report (J. Heminway)

There is a change in the published agenda. There will be a report from the Ombudsperson immediately following the Provost's report.

- a. UT Presidential Search. We are in week two of the Presidential Search. The Board of Trustees is meeting later this week—Friday—to choose one candidate. Input on the candidates is still welcome and can be sent to J. Heminway, Matt Murray, or any other member of the Search Advisory Council or Search Committee.
- b. Update of VOL Vision 2015. The committee is in the process marking up the current draft of the plan. It should be submitted to the Provost's office next week.
- c. Program Discontinuances. As a reminder, the majors in Russian and Italian are being considered for discontinuance. The matter is now on the Provost's desk. J. Heminway has been pleased with the process so far. T. Boulet was thanked for his work on this matter.
- e. Other.
  - Continuing her "focus on faculty" theme, J. Heminway mentioned the work of faculty members (including one Senate member) on the Tennessee State Science Olympiad competition and the volunteer work of a faculty member with Math students at Bearden High School. She noted that these two faculty members are great examples of the work that faculty do in the state's K-12 education system.
  - Ashley Meredith, the Faculty Senate's graduate assistant, is resigning from her position for personal reasons. Ashley was thanked for her service. A card signed by Faculty Senate members was circulated during the meeting.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)

Chancellor Cheek was unable to attend the meeting. There was no Chancellor's report.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

S. Martin urged all to continue to participate in the Presidential Search. The Board of Trustees and Search Committee will meet with the candidates on Wednesday for the second time. She reiterated that any comments on or information about the candidates should be forwarded to M. Murray or J.

Heminway. Thanks were extended to Ed Cortez, Dixie Thompson and Heminway for their work on the VolVision plan. The Provost's Office is integrating input on initiatives and metrics from the Dean, Director, and Department Head retreat earlier this month. Once that has been completed, the process will move to an implementation phase. The plan will direct, among other things, the allocation of resources on the campus.

Bruce Bursten, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, submitted his resignation to Provost Martin unexpectedly. The resignation is effective December 31. The Provost thanked Dr. Bursten for leading the college in a tough time. The Provost will engage both faculty and staff in choosing the Interim Dean. The Interim Dean must be someone who will keep the college moving forward.

There is a proposal on how to distribute academic reinvestment funds. The Provost is finalizing the plan with the affected colleges. Most of the money will go to instructional support (both lecturers and tenure-track faculty) and tutorial support.

A Senator asked about the process for the discontinuances of the Russian and Italian majors. The Provost indicated that she is considering the discontinuance proposals. She has had face-to-face meetings with the members of the Dean's office, the department head, and the faculty involved, which J. Heminway and T. Boulet attended as representatives of the Faculty Senate. The Provost and the Dean both now must reconsider the proposal. A decision is proximate.

A Senator asked the Provost about the National Research Council's recent release of a report on the top research universities. S. Martin was pleasantly surprised by the question, since no one else had yet asked her about the report. She reminded all that the data was collected five years ago and will not reflect any changes that have happened since then. The report is quite complex and includes spreadsheets with ranges. It is extraordinarily difficult to interpret. There is no summary or listed ranking of universities. The Provost's Office is reading and considering the report.

#### Ombudsperson Report (B. Nugent)

B. Nugent reported that he was appointed in January 2010. Since then, he has handled 13 cases, 3 of which are currently active. The types of cases he has dealt with include tenure conflicts, faculty-to-faculty issues, and faculty-administrator issues. At this point, he has dealt with too few cases to consider changes to the current policy. In prior years, the ombudsperson handled about 20 cases per year. He expects the number of cases to rise in spring after tenure decisions are made. Nugent was asked about the role of his office with the Appeals Committee. Nugent replied that none of the cases he has handled have moved to the Committee, so he could not make specific comments.

## **MINUTES**

### Faculty Senate Minutes

The minutes of the September 20, 2010, meeting were approved unanimously.

## **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

The TUFs resolutions supported by the UTK Faculty Senate last month were approved by a majority of TUFs members and are in effect. As a follow-up, a copy of the letter from the TUFs President to the AAUP was posted with the agenda for this meeting.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### Graduate Council (M. Essington)

M. Essington presented the minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of September 23, 2010, for approval by the Senate. Since the report represents the actions of a committee of the Faculty Senate, he noted that the minutes come to the floor of the Senate for approval as a seconded

motion. Discussion began with a motion by D. Birdwell to separate pgs. 1637-1642 from the balance of the minutes so they could be considered individually. The motion was seconded from the floor and passed unanimously. A motion then was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the Graduate Council minutes with pages 1637-1642 removed.

A motion was made by D. Birdwell (and seconded from the floor) to approve pages 1637-1642 of the Graduate Council minutes. These pages comprise the proposal of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education ("CIRE") for a Ph.D. program in Energy Science and Engineering ("ESE").

At the outset of the discussion, a subsidiary motion was made by D. Birdwell (and seconded from the floor) asking that new text be inserted into the CIRE proposal, as follows:

A CIRE Interim Credentials Committee (CIRE/ICC) is to be formed. The CIRE/ICC is to be composed of eight individuals who hold the rank of Professor on the Knoxville campus (UTK/UTIA) or an equivalent rank at ORNL and are appointed by the appropriate Chancellor or the Laboratory Director. Exactly four members of CIRE/ICC shall have a home unit within UTK/UTIA, and the remaining four members shall have a home unit within ORNL. At least one member of the committee must have a home appointment in UTIA. None of these faculty members may hold an administrative appointment within CIRE or to which CIRE reports (including the CIRE Board of Directors).

The function of the CIRE/ICC is to establish interim faculty review procedures and review candidates for appointment to the Faculty of the CIRE and to make recommendations to the UTK Chancellor, UTIA Chancellor, and the ORNL Laboratory Director to appoint or not appoint each candidate. An affirmative vote by at least six (6) members of the CIRE/ICC is required for each appointment. The appropriate Chancellor and Laboratory Director will also receive a recommendation from the CIRE Board of Directors and will make the appointment decision.

The CIRE/ICC will serve in this capacity until all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The CIRE Faculty includes at least eight individuals holding an appointment at the rank of Professor in CIRE, with at least four of these individuals having home appointments in each of UTK/UTIA and ORNL.
2. The CIRE Faculty shall have an approved CIRE Bylaws that establish a CIRE Credentials Committee and that governs appointment, promotion, and review processes.
3. The CIRE Faculty shall have elected members of its faculty to serve on the CIRE Credentials Committee.

The following constraints are placed upon the composition of the CIRE Credentials Committee (CIRE/CC) that is to be established by the CIRE Bylaws:

1. CIRE/CC members must be members of the CIRE Faculty.
2. The CIRE/CC must have an even number of members.
3. An affirmative vote by at least 75% of the members of the CIRE/ICC is required for each appointment to the CIRE Faculty.
4. The representation of UTK/UTIA of UTK/UTIA and ORNL on the CIRE/CC must be equal, such representation counted by the home organization of each member on his or her letter of appointment.
5. No member of the CIRE Credentials Committee may hold an administrative appointment within CIRE or to which CIRE reports at either UTK/UTIA or ORNL.

L. Riedinger endorsed this as a friendly amendment to the ESE program proposal, and after discussion, a vote was taken on the proposed insertion. The insertion was approved unanimously.

A motion was then made by D. Birdwell (and seconded from the floor) to replace the first paragraph of page 1639 with the following wording:

A minimum of 72 hours is required beyond the bachelor's degree, exclusive of credit for an MS thesis, and completion of the core requirements, as outlined in the section on Course Requirements. Of this number, a minimum of 24 ~~and up to 36 hours~~ of 600 Doctoral Research and Dissertation and ~~six~~ *nine* hours of 600--level coursework at UTK/UTIA ~~will be~~ *are* required. *Six of the nine hours of 600--level coursework must be offered by an engineering, science, or mathematics department at UTK/UTIA other than ESE.*

Discussion mainly focused on whether or not the phrase "and up to 36 hours" was duplicative. After discussion, a vote was held. The measure passed unanimously. That sentence now reads "Of this number, a minimum of 24 hours of 600 Doctoral Research and Dissertation and six hours of 600-level coursework at UTK will be required."

A motion was made by D. Birdwell (and seconded from the floor) to add a new sentence at the end of the end of the paragraph quoted above. The proposed additional sentence read "The coursework must include a minimum of six credit hours of mathematics at the 400-level or higher."

Considerable discussion followed. The main issues discussed included whether or not mathematics was the common language in all aspects of science; the need for individualized degree plans for each student based on his or her background and interest; and the number of degree programs at UTK/UTIA (and other universities) in the sciences that do or do not include a mathematics requirement. C. Hodges stated she was satisfied with the text approved by the Graduate Council. A vote was held. The motion failed with 3 in favor and one abstention.

A motion was made by D. Birdwell (and seconded from the floor) requesting that two changes be made to the "Course Requirements" listed on page 1639 of the Minutes. The first was to change the number of hours in the first sentence from "36" to "48" and the second was to change "is" to "are" in that same sentence. There was robust discussion on this motion. Many PhD programs at UTK/UTIA require just 36 hours. Vanderbilt University requires just 25. Since there are no pre-requisites to being admitted, the individual Committee will evaluate each candidate individually. A student who needs more Math course work or has other deficiencies will end up taking more than 36 hours. There was concern that having just six hours in addition to the course requirements would not give the student enough time to get the in depth knowledge into the science necessary for true research. ORNL scientists currently are not used to directing graduate students, and UTK/UTIA needs assurance that the program is rigorous. The Task Force who created the proposal spent much time discussing the number of hours and decided 36 was the best requirement. An individual may need more, but 36 were all that should be required for the course work. The additional 36 hours in doctoral research would give the students that broad depth needed. A vote was called. The motion failed. There were 3 in support and 10 abstentions.

Hearing no further discussion, J. Heminway requested a motion to accept pages 1637-1642 of the Graduate Council minutes as amended. The motion and a second came from the floor. The motion passed with one "Nay" vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

V. Anfar presented the proposed Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting calendars for next academic year. They follow the dates prescribed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws

and were checked to avoid conflicts with religious holidays set forth on the Chancellor's Web site. A motion was made and seconded from the floor to approve the proposed calendars. The motion passed unanimously.

Anfara also reported that he chairs the Committee on Nominations and Appointments and will be holding a meeting within the next three weeks. All Senators are encouraged to think of persons to nominate for senators and committee chairs and members.

Heminway then noted that a copy of the Final Report of the Chancellor's Task Force on Civility and Community was posted with the minutes. The Report is open for comments. Since no comments were raised at the meeting, Heminway asked that senators contact her or another member of the Executive Council with questions or issues. She indicated that the Executive Council had asked for the opportunity to endorse the Report at its November meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Deeken, Secretary