

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

February 7, 2002

**Signal Mountain Room
University Center**

Elected Members Present: Rob Bailey, Tom Bibler, Roland Carter, Linda Cundiff, Susan Davidson, Joe Dumas, Fritz Efaw, Marvin Ernst, Steve Eskildsen, Dawn Ford, Diane Halstead, Karen Henderson, Jim Hiestand, Michael Jones, Charles Knight, Vance Lesseig, Irene Loomis, Deborah McAllister, Claire McCullough, John Mies, Sarla Murgai, Marcia Noe, Teresa Norris, Joe Owino, Vickie Petzko, Oralia Preble-Niemi, Verbie Prevost, Cheryl Robinson, Leland Robinson, Chris Stuart, Judith Wakim, Barbara Walton

Elected Members Absent: Zibin Guo, Valerie Rutledge, Terry Walters

Ex-Officio Members Present: Richard Brown, Sheila Delacroix, Richard MacDougall, John Trimpey

Among the Guests Present: Fran Bender, Robert Duffy, Lee Harris, Bruce Hutchinson, Eileen Meagher, Ed Rozema, Monty Wilson, Sandy Zitkus

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3: 02 PM.

Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2002:

President Ernst reminded the council members to be sure and sign in and to identify themselves before speaking.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Report from the Graduate School:

Dr. Eileen Meagher reported on a proposal from the School of Nursing. The proposal requests:

1. rename N514 to Health Care Information Management for Nurse Executives
2. decrease the content and credit hours of N535 and N536 from four (4) to three (3) credit hours each

There was no discussion. The motion carried 23-0-0.

Report from the Curriculum Committee:

Dr. Bruce Hutchinson reported on information items first, which do not require Faculty Council vote. (see attached list of proposals and information items)

Questions were answered during discussion. Dr. Efaw stated his questions on the math proposals were cleared up prior to the council meeting by Dr. Rozema. Dr. Ernst expressed appreciation to the Curriculum Committee and Dr. Hutchinson for getting the large number of proposals out to the council members early. (The secretary also thanks Dr. Hutchinson for creating the table of proposals.)
The curriculum proposals passed with a vote of 27-0-0.

Report from the Standards Committee:

Dr. Fran Bender reported that she was presenting an information item from the Standards Committee. The SACS committee stated that continuation standards at UTC needed to be looked at. Research done by the committee shows that in 1993 the Standards Committee recommended that the continuation standards be raised. This was passed by the Faculty Council and the faculty in 1993. This motion then went to the UT system for approval. The UT system stated that this motion would not go to the Board of Trustees for approval because of its potential negative impact on minorities. The Standards Committee has members with ambivalent feelings about raising the continuation standards due to the Board of Trustees would probably not pass them. Therefore the Standards Committee has decided no action on raising the standards. Dr. Ernst requested that Dr. Bender report to the council so that this would be documented in the minutes.

Dr. McCullough asked what are the continuation standards and what do they need to be raised too?

Dr. Bender - it - is based on the number of hours students need to progress; the information is in the catalog; the original intent was to move students up sooner to a 2.0.

Dr. Roland Carter - when was the impact study done by Dr. Gruetzemacher and what were the results?

Provost Trimpey - I asked Dr. Gruetzemacher around the middle of November. I don't have the numbers with me.

Dr. Bender - In looking at spring 99, spring 2000 and spring 2001 and fall 98, 99 and 2000; change would be significant.

Dr. Ernst - the number of students that would not meet the new continuation standards goes up significantly.

Dr. Carter - what are the numbers that impact black students?

Dr. Bender - those are the numbers I gave now. Dr. Bender agreed to make a copy and forward it to Dr. Carter.

Report on Acceptable Use Policy

Dr. Clint Smullen gave the following report. Several committees have looked at this over the last 6-7 years. It has gone through the Chancellors staff. I certainly recommend that it be adopted. It will apply to everyone, faculty, staff, students and administrators. It has also been presented to SGA. What this policy does is document existing practice. UTC security officers will monitor security incidences. This is needed to protect our resources here at UTC. The free flow of ideas and techniques needs to be protected. All of the machines can be damaged with a security breach. Computers on campus as well as those linked to computers off campus can be damaged and this makes us liable. This is a first step in providing protection as well as a full understanding of your responsibilities in how you go about reporting problems.

Dr. Monty Wilson then reported that not only can computers on campus be damaged but computers linked off campus as well without anyone knowing about it. And we are responsible for what happens.

Provost Trimpey – this came from faculty, not administration, its been run by legal staff in Knoxville, they are looking at it as well; Executive Council is looking for approval from Faculty Council.

Discussion

Dr. McCullough – does this go to the whole faculty?

Dr. Ernst – we are the faculty representatives so it doesn't need to go to the whole faculty.

The motion passed by voice vote.

President Ernst commented that a great deal of thanks should go to the faculty and staff that have worked on this policy.

Administrative Reports

The Chancellor is not here today but he sends his love and left us in charge.

Provost Trimpey

Need your help on 2 things:

1. we have had a rash of incidences of students attending classes without being registered; students should not sit in class for free; we are not a furniture store no payments or interest for several months; sometimes student get hung up with financial aid, etc.; please notify my office; after 2 weeks into the semester, students will not be allowed to attend.
2. independent study – you must turn in a contract signed by the student and faculty; include a timeline and evaluation methods; all 498 courses must be accompanied by a contract and 497's; overrides on both have now been blocked; SACS insists that every course have a syllabus; the contract is the syllabus for these courses.

Dr. Ernst asked if this means the student must have the signed contract when registering for the course?

Provost Trimpey - the student must bring the contract with them.

Sandy Zitkus - we are revising the form so that the department head must also sign the form and override the closed class business.

Dr. Leland Robinson – the contract serves as a syllabus so we don't need to attach a syllabus as well?

Provost Trimpey - no, that will do; the student may want more direction but that will do for our purposes in reporting to SACS.

Dr. Efaw – I had noticed that the state budget for the coming year has a 5% salary increase for most state employees except 2.5% for K-12 teachers and 3.5% for university professions; the state treasurer said that the reason these numbers were smaller is because universities and K-12 had other sources available to them. But I didn't see any clarification as to what these other sources might be.

Vice Chancellor Brown – the budget articulates what the governor recommends to the legislature it also includes a \$10 million compensation; the state will give 3.5% to university personnel but if we want a 6% increase the state will ask us to raise our fees.

Dr. Ernst – I will continue my recommendation that we need to contact the state legislators and let them know how we feel.

Provost Trimpey – SACS report – we got hit four times and that’s why we got a warning because we didn’t respond; we are having to resubmit our reports; so we are going to submit full reports instead of abbreviated reports; we are not in danger of losing our accreditation.

Old Business

Dr. Ernst – the system wants to move to 2 paychecks per month instead of 1 per month; the Employee Relations Committee wants 1 per month.

Dr. Irene Loomis heard every other week.

Dr. Halstead - that’s 26 paychecks per year.

Dr. Petzko – so is there going to be a choice or is it all or none.

Dr. Ernst – we are not sure at this time whether or not there will be choices.

Dr. Dumas – if will we get paid in advance instead of in arrears I'd be all for it.

Vice Chancellor Brown – all campuses have heard about it; we are going to leave it at once a month; President Fly will be issuing a statement soon.

New Business

Dr. Ernst presented a problem from Dr. Gene Van Horn – indicates there are problems with students not showing up for the first few classes; with classes that are limited, what can we do to students if they don’t show up? Can a professor dismiss the student?

Dr. Petzko – would like it for undergraduate; I've been told that I can't turn in a blank grade sheet, what can we do?

Dr. Noe – the Chicago schools had a scandal about students on the roster that were not really attending class; they instituted a purge roster for us to use; students were dropped if they did not attend.

Dr. Ernst – the concern expressed by Dr. Van Horn was that these students are taking up space in classes with limited enrollments.

Dr. Cheryl Robinson – in Knoxville there is mandatory attendance the first day; if not you are dropped.

Dr. Ernst - this concern will be sent on to committee when it is determined which committee that should be.

Dr. Dumas – shared the results from raven mail concerning the traffic on Fifth Street; he has been conducting an informal survey to see about changing traffic flow; have had some near tragic situations occur; I am very concerned and wanted to bring it before the council and see what can be done; I feel it is dangerous and we need something to be done; 41 respondents agreed with me, these are both faculty and staff; no one said it is better; a few said it needed speed bumps; the responses are in favor of returning it to a 2 lane street.

Vice Chancellor Brown - E. Fifth Street is a city street, not ours; we have been working with the city on this; they have received the emails about this issue; this is a part of the downtown partnership; there have been some conflicts in regards to speeding; need strict enforcement; without the bus lane, traffic backs up to Maple street and Fourth Street; the city wants us to try it for a few more months and try to make it work. The city is

interested in what is going on here with this situation. The speed has been reduced to 25 mph. The city feels the major problem is speed. We need to go to stricter enforcement on this.

Dr. Bibler – What is the total number of faculty and staff? If only 41 responded, out of how many?

Dr. Ernst - Approximately 985 faculty and staff.

Dr. Prevost – I feel that the major problem is speed; its dangerous either side of the street; I don't think it has anything to do with the number of lanes.

Dr. Dumas - speed is a big part of the problem; but I agree that 3 lanes are a problem; the shuttle bus is too wide for the lanes.

Vice Chancellor Brown - the traffic manager states that the lanes are regular width.

Dr. Dumas - I really feel that this issue needs to be addressed before someone gets killed.

Dr. Prevost – if you recall, Ken Smith complained for many years about the speed on that street.

Dr. Dumas - I feel that the 3 lanes make it worse.

Dr. Noe - It is difficult to turn into the lot because of people rushing by in the right hand lane and you aren't sure if you can get over without being hit or hitting someone else. It's a lot worse now than it ever has been. I disagree that it is an inconvenience, it's a safety problem.

Dr. Hiestand - I agree that speed is a problem; but the additional lane is the problem.

I don't see any bicycles being used in the lane and I'd like to see if there is an accident that somebody sues perhaps the city and the university for condoning an unsafe situation. I think its that serious.

The discussion and comments continued on for several more minutes concerning the dangers of speeding and the 3 lanes on Fifth Street.

Dr. McCullough stated that substantial speeding tickets might have an impact.

President Ernst asked for a motion on this proposal.

Dr. Noe moved approval. Dr. Loomis gave the second.

Dr. Bibler asked if we should vote on this issue since it was just brought up for discussion today.

Dr. Prevost – suggested that we wait and have further discussion before making a decision.

Dr. Dumas – although the response level appears small, the most I have ever received to a query is about 50; if you don't use this street then you don't really know what the problem is that some of face and deal with everyday.

Dr. Petzko – I would like for expert input before voting on this.

Dr. Bibler – table the issue.

Dr. Leland Robinson – second

President Ernst - this will require a motion in the next meeting.

Ayes have it to table the motion.

Dr. Dumas - resolution #2 – the city of Chattanooga is looking at converting McCallie and MLK/Bailey into 2 way traffic streets; concerned about the impact on the ability of us to get into campus and will affect the safety of students due to dealing with traffic coming from 2 directions; can we discourage the city from doing this? Can we nip it in the bud? Can we prevent this and prevent a mess?

Dr. Carter – the UTC faculty and staff were involved in planning for this change.
Dr. McCullough – in terms of long range, what we want the university to be; do we want this to be part of the university or a traffic path? Do we want the major traffic artery running right through campus? This would be more of a hindrance.
Dr. Leland Robinson – I agree we don't want a major thoroughfare; we don't have evidence that the effect on businesses due to the change would be minimal. It is in the university and students best interest to have viable businesses along McCallie and MLK. Again, discussion continued on with this issue of traffic, speed, and impact on the university, students, faculty and staff.
Vice Chancellor Brown – this is not an overnight decision; average speed on McCallie is 70-75; crossing these streets is an issue; city is looking at all phases of this issue; lane size; affects on other neighborhoods; safety issues; planning commission will hold public meetings; studies show it does impact commercial business; mayor wants to look at this issue also; get involved, come to meetings; traffic engineers are looking at all of this; these streets are not community friendly; consultants are being brought in to look at all aspects of this issue; I want to encourage all of you to get into this debate; this is not a done deal.
Dr. Carter – this is larger than the city and university; these are state roads as well.
Dr. Prevost – we need to see all that is going on; there are some long range plans for some of these areas that need to be gotten out so we can look at it.
Dr. Efaw – I would like to emphasize to Richard that traffic engineers need to be here; no reason to take these things into account unless they are here; will request one of the public meetings here so you can have input as well.
Vice Chancellor Brown - we will have the traffic engineers here at the next meeting; we can also have one of the public meetings held here if the council would like that.
President Ernst – yes, we need to have them here and have an open hearing on this.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM. (whew!)

Finally submitted,

Susan Davidson
Faculty Council Secretary