

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
 January 20, 2005

<u>Division</u>	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
President	Richard Rice	
Past-President		Marvin Ernst
At-Large	Neal Coulter, Stephen Kuhn, Jim Henry, Jonathan McNair, Claire McCullough	Greg O’Dea
Adjunct	Tim Parker	
Behavioral	Fritz Efaw, David Brodsky, Rich Metzger	
Business	Chris Brockman, P. Dileepan	Obasi Haki-Akan, Valerie Taylor
Engineering	Joe Dumas, Jim Hiestand, Roger Briley	
Fine Arts	Matt Greenwell, Stacy Ray, Gavin Townsend	
HEPS	Ann Johnson, Robin Lee, Ted Miller, Nicholas Boer Burch Oglesby, Randy Walker	
Humanities	Vicki Steinberg, Joseph Wilferth, Talia Welsh, Elizabeth Gailey, Chuck Lippy	
Library	Priscilla Seaman	
Math & Science	Bob Marlowe, Linda Collins, Henry Spratt David Ashe, Gretchen Potts	
Ex-Officio	John Friedl, Fred Obear, Richard Brown, David Pittenger, Theresa Liedtka	Jocelyn Sanders, Mary Lynn Williamson

Among the Guests Present: Herb Burhenn, Chuck Cantrell, Linda Orth, and Deborah Arfken

SUMMARY

- * Vice Chancellor Richard Brown discussed the situation with regard to the possible acquisition of Finley Stadium by UTC.
- * Administrators asked the Senate to deal with major problems with the time frames for the grade appeals process.
- * The procedure for electing at-large members of the Senate was changed.
- * Faculty members asked for respite from overly numerous student orientations and strict rules about naked doors. President Rice’s fully clothed door may be a fire hazard.
- * The Adjunct Faculty Committee was renamed the Contingent Faculty Committee.

Passed Motions:

1. Approval of a new process for electing at-large Senators

2. Expansion of the charge to the Calendar Committee to include considering whatever is necessary to address the calendar problem.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of December 2, 2004, were approved unanimously.

Sometime later in the meeting a question arose about the definition of “contingent faculty.” Randy Walker moved and Fritz Efav seconded reconsidering the minutes. Randy Walker moved and Jim Hiestand seconded changing the minutes to reflect the fact that a motion had been passed to change the name of the Adjunct Faculty Committee to the Contingent Faculty Committee. This led to a long discussion of related matters. The definition of “contingent” was not made definite, although there was an allusion to the possibility that it meant all faculty, part-time and full-time, who do not have tenure track appointments. The Provost pointed out that this definition included quite a divergent group, from adjuncts to research faculty. It was suggested that perhaps they should have more divergent representation on the Senate. Fritz Efav interrupted this fascinating discussion to suggest that the Senate focus on the matter before it, namely the amendment to the minutes. Jim Hiestand asked that it be recorded in the minutes that *Fritz Efav* was the one to suggest shortening the debate. The motion to amend the minutes passed unanimously.

3. **Report from the Executive Committee**

President Rice announced the following.

- The UT Board of Trustees is holding their March 1-2 meeting at UTC. These meetings are open to the public.
- It being useful for Senators and committee chairs to be familiar with commonly used rules from Robert’s Rules of Order, a short list of such rules has been prepared by Parliamentarian Jim Hiestand and Secretary Betsy Darken. These were distributed to those present and are to be sent to committee chairs.
- The apparent number of absences of each Senator from the eight Senate meetings of the Fall Semester has been noted on the attendance list. Senators were asked to make corrections as needed.

4. **Handbook Committee Report**

Matt Greenwell presented a recommendation from the Handbook Committee to change the procedures for electing at-large Senators from a ballot conducted at the spring faculty meeting to an election in March.

Claire McCullough argued against this change, saying that she found it useful to see the people being nominated—and more useful to observe if they were in attendance at the faculty meeting. Steve Kuhn suggested that it would be even more useful for nominees to post pictures and vitas on the web at election time. The motion to change election procedures passed. Fritz Efaw moved and Professor McCullough seconded that this matter be considered a major item requiring approval by the full faculty. This motion failed, 11-20.

5. Finley Stadium Discussion

President Rice commented on an article appearing in the Echo recently that indicated that UTC would be buying Finley Stadium, despite the fact that the latter has run up an annual deficit for years. He asked Vice Chancellor Richard Brown to speak to the issue.

Vice Chancellor Brown reported that Chancellor Obear had ordered an investigation into the pros and cons of accepting Finley Stadium as a gift from the City of Chattanooga--not *buying* it. This investigation is still underway and it is “not a done deal.” The budget office, auditors, and others at UTC are looking at the stadium records of the last five years and considering long-term issues. They will report to the Chancellor in February. Any plan to acquire the stadium must be approved by the UT Board of Trustees in March and by the State Building Committee in April or May.

The Vice Chancellor noted that the Stadium is a 28 million dollar facility to which UTC originally contributed 3 million dollars. President Rice commented that UTC pays \$185,000 per year to retire the 30-year bond that is used to pay off this debt. Richard Brown said that this is built into the UTC athletic budget. There is hope that a donor might pay off this debt, in which case this money can go elsewhere, such as into the academic affairs budget.

Richard Brown also noted other problems. As all the world now knows, Finley Stadium’s field needs to be replaced with artificial turf. UTC will not pay for this turf. Fortunately, a local manufacturer of artificial turf is considering making a donation, with the cost of installation to be shared with the city. Other issues include Finley’s history of bad press, pre-existing contracts that might be detrimental, including parking contracts, and possible long-term maintenance issues. He stated firmly that UTC does not want to acquire a drain on its resources.

On the other hand, acquiring the stadium as a gift would help the athletics department. Also, UTC’s experience in running McKenzie Arena will hold it in good stead for running the stadium.

President Rice asked about an unconfirmed report that stadium maintenance has been deferred due to deficits. The Vice Chancellor stated that he has toured the stadium three times and it seems to be in relatively good condition. It is very clean with relatively new carpets. However, there will be an analysis of the cost of maintenance.

Several senators raised concerns about the safety of artificial turf, as the latter has been known to cause more injuries than real turf. Richard Brown responded that tests of the latest types of artificial turf indicates that it feels and plays like grass. Research conducted on pro fields has yielded very good results.

A Senator asked if McKenzie Arena is operating in the red or black. In the black, the vice chancellor responded.

The vice chancellor also explained that re-opening Chamberlain Field, the old football field, is not a good fallback. For one thing, it would take five to eight million dollars to refurbish it.

Gavin Townsend asked that, if it were ascertained that income from the stadium would be less than upkeep, “Will you turn it down?” Richard Brown responded that that is an option. “We will not do this if it puts UTC at risk.” However, he reminded the assemblage, the current owners have control of access costs—i.e. what UTC has to pay to use the stadium.

Chancellor Obear interjected with a comment that the UT Board and the state planning committee will not approve the acquisition of the stadium if the revenue is not flowing the right way. It is not UTC’s decision alone. “We have turned down gifts before.” The chancellor also commented that the stadium may be in such good shape because it was “not used much.” It could be a money-maker if it is used for Friday night football, Saturday afternoon football, Monday morning truck pulls, etc.

Jim Hiestand commented that the underlying theme here seems to be that UTC would have to run the stadium better than it’s been run in the past to make it viable. Richard Brown and Chancellor Obear responded in chorus, “more efficiently.” President Rice pointed out that UTC has outsourced food and housing. Why does UTC want to insource a stadium that others seem to regard as an albatross? He might feel better about this possible deal except for what happened with the Fifth Street parking structure. The latter, he said, was projected to make \$220,000 a year. Instead it made \$20,000 in its first year. We now have to pay higher parking fees because of this problem. Vice Chancellor Brown responded that revenue projections for the parking garage were based on using three levels of the parking structure for “pay as you go.” However, complaints led to opening the structure up to regular parking.

In answer to a query from President Rice, Chuck Cantrell of University Relations said he had been misquoted in the Echo article.

6. Administrative Reports

- a. Information items from the Chancellor
Chancellor Obear welcomed the faculty back to campus for the spring semester. He reported that dorm occupancy rates have held up, although construction is not

complete. The appeals process for students suspended or dismissed at the end of fall semester is finally complete. He noted that the UT Board of Trustees is meeting at UTC on March 1-2, competing on March 2 with the first day of the Southern Conference basketball tournament. [Find your parking places early!] There is to be a rededication of the New Village Apartments in honor of Joe and Pat Johnson on the afternoon of March 1.

b. Problems with the grade appeals process

Vice Provost David Pittenger, speaking for the Provost, requested that the Senate review the current appeals process, especially as it applies to the end of Fall Semester. The cases of a large number of students who appealed their status at the end of Fall Semester were not resolved until well after the start of classes.

Deborah Arfken, University Registrar, asked that the Grade Appeals Committee look into this problem. It is due in part to the generous time frames for appeals. In this day of electronic mail, surely it is not necessary to allow 20 days for undergraduate appeals or 45 days for graduate appeals. [These are the times from the receipt of grades to the final appeal to the Chancellor.] There is also a problem with not having any faculty around from the time grades are released to the beginning of Spring Semester.

Jim Hiestand, chair of the Grade Appeals Committee, agreed that there are problems with scheduling committee meetings. Linda Orth, Director of Records and Registration, reiterated that the current appeals process creates a major problem. There were around 50 petitions of suspensions and dismissals from this past fall. If a student were lucky, the appeal was heard during the first week of classes, with the next level of appeal being heard by the second week.

Claire McCullough pointed out that this problem occurred because Spring Semester started so early in January—this is a calendar problem. President Rice said he would add this to the list of problems to be considered by the Calendar Committee. McCullough said that she and the rest of the Calendar Committee have concluded that they cannot make recommendations about the calendar without looking into a wide variety of issues, including the number of graduations per year, the number of summer school terms, and so on. If the Senate is serious about this, it needs to appoint a strong committee with wide representation from affected areas. President Rice promised to put this on the agenda, but also remarked that a smaller committee size can be advantageous. Joe Dumas commented that the summer school schedule drives the whole schedule. Claire McCullough said that the committee has been told that the current summer school schedule is important to some departments.

Joe Dumas moved and Jim Hiestand seconded expanding the charge of the Calendar Committee to include considering whatever is necessary to address the calendar problem. The motion passed. President Rice agreed to include this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Deborah Arfken added that five summer school sessions are “really, really difficult” from an administrative point of view. She then repeated that the faculty should consider adjusting time frames for appeals. It is no longer necessary to allow so much time for each step of the process.

7. Other Business

a. Advisement strain at nine orientations

Jim Hiestand expressed his concern about the scheduled number of summer orientations (6 for freshmen, 3 for transfers). Each orientation requires the presence of engineering advisors, as it is extremely important for engineering students to get careful advice. It is unreasonable to expect the engineering faculty to attend nine orientations. A solution would be to restrict engineering majors to certain orientations. Jonathan McNair said the same problem exists for Music faculty and their students. Gretchen Potts commented that many students are uncertain of their major—some change majors during orientation! President Rice agreed with the importance of getting students off on the right foot and said he would invite Jim Hicks, Associate Dean of Student Life, to the next Senate meeting to discuss this.

b. Richard Brown reported on a number of items. A slew of maintenance and landscape projects involving Hooper, Metro, Vine St., Chamberlain Field, etc., are ongoing. In a vain effort to forestall complaints, he said that he wants the community to know that only sick and old trees are coming down around campus. Thirty new trees are being planted. The wellness center, a 14 million dollar project to be located at Maple and 4th, has been approved. The city is no longer considering re-opening Vine Street in light of strong vocal resistance from UTC. [Go Linda Collins!] The budget process will be starting at the end of the month...so let the fights begin. He will keep us posted on developments.

11. Faculty Concerns

Betsy Darken of Mathematics expressed concern about students wandering around the EMCS building not being able to make contact with their professors because we are forbidden to post anything on our doors, including office hours. Claire McCullough of Engineering remarked that we are also forbidden post HW solutions. Richard Brown said it has something to do with safety codes, but agreed to check into this situation. Richard Rice commented that he hopes there are not serious safety concerns, as his own office door is past rehabilitation.

8. Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Darken
Faculty Senate Secretary