

**FACULTY SENATE AGENDA**  
**Signal Mountain Room, University Center, 3 p.m.**

**March 23, 2006**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes of March 2, 2006
3. Report from the Executive Committee
  - a. New starting time for Senate
  - b. Faculty attendance at graduation
4. Old Business: Course Repeat and Grade Replacement Policy [see attached]
5. Administrative Reports
6. Other Business
7. Faculty Concerns
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment (no later than 5 p.m.)

Senate meetings are open meetings to which all interested parties are welcome.

To presenters: If a document camera is needed for a presentation, please make arrangements with Media Resources.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA**  
**2005-2006 FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
 March 23, 2006

<u><b>Division</b></u>	<u><b>Present</b></u>	<u><b>Absent</b></u>
<b>President</b>	Richard Rice	
<b>Past-President</b>		Marvin Ernst
<b>At-Large</b>	Stephen Kuhn, Claire McCullough, Jonathan McNair, Judith Wakim, Cheryl Robinson	Joanie Sompayrac
<b>Adjunct</b>		Tim Parker
<b>Behavioral</b>	Fritz Efaw	Shela Van Ness, Helen Eigenberg David Brodsky
<b>Business</b>	Debbie Archambeault, Beni Asllani Chris Brockman, John Alvis	
<b>Engineering</b>	Joe Dumas, Jim Hiestand	Kathy Winters, Roger Briley
<b>Fine Arts</b>	Gavin Townsend, Jillian Zwilling	Matt Greenwell
<b>CHEPS</b>	Kay Lindgren, Robin Lee, Linda Johnston, Burch Oglesby, Ted Miller	Dana Wertenberger
<b>Humanities</b>	Vicki Steinberg, Tony Steinhoff, Chuck Lippy	Jennifer Beech, Elizabeth Gailey
<b>Library</b>	Mike Bell	Priscilla Seaman
<b>Math &amp; Science</b>	Bob Marlowe, Betsy Darken, Gretchen Potts, Henry Spratt	Sharon Brueggeman
<b>Ex-Officio</b>	Herb Burhenn, David Pittenger, Roger Brown, Theresa Liedtka, Jocelyn Sanders	Richard Brown Hugh Prevost

**Among the Guests Present:** Deborah Arfken, Linda Orth, Charles Nelson, Terry Denniston

### **Summary**

The Senate approved a revised policy on repeating courses and replacing grades, effective as of fall 2007. The maximum number of replaced grades was reduced from five to three; the current policy of forbidding the repeating of courses for credit if the student had previously made an A or B was retained; and various details were nailed down.

The Senate changed its starting time from 3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.

The Senate discussed faculty attendance at graduation ceremonies, including some possible ways to encourage higher attendance.

The Chancellor made comments about actions of the UT Board, the new fitness center, and applications for Fall 2006.

## **Minutes**

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting came to order at 3:06 p.m.

### **2. Approval of the minutes of March 23, 2006**

The minutes were approved without correction.

### **3. Executive Committee Report**

#### **a. New starting time**

President Rice announced that, unless there were objections, the starting time for the Senate will be changed to 3:10 p.m., starting at the next meeting, in order to accommodate Senate members with classes ending at 2:55 p.m. [such as yours truly]. Hearing no objection, the President declared this to be a done deal

#### **b. Faculty attendance at graduation**

President Rice made a number of comments about ways to improve faculty attendance at graduation ceremonies. The Faculty Handbook states that faculty members are expected to attend two of the three annual UTC graduation ceremonies. There has been a dearth of faculty lately at graduations. Perhaps the university should consider reducing the number of graduations to two by eliminating the summer graduation, with faculty expected to attend one of two graduations. Many faculty regard attending two graduations per year as too much. Canceling a graduation ceremony would save money, about \$20,000-\$25,000. The university could use this savings to pay for nationally known speakers—although some of our best speakers have been our own colleagues. Inviting members of our own faculty to speak at graduations is a good tradition.

President Rice also offered two other suggestions from the Executive Committee. One suggestion made by President-elect Gavin Townsend is to have a drawing among faculty who attend graduation. The prizes would be free annual parking decals. The second suggestion regarded academic regalia, which is expensive to purchase. Perhaps we could ask retiring faculty to donate their academic regalia so they can

used by current faculty members; we could also make arrangements for a low-cost rental system using savings from the cancelled graduation ceremony.

Associate Provost Jocelyn Sanders said that faculty members should consider attendance at graduations as part of their faculty duties. Associate Provost David Pittenger said there were many dire needs on campus that could be met with the savings from canceling a graduation. Jim Hiestand questioned whether the Handbook specifies attendance at two graduation ceremonies. Henry Spratt said that at one of his previous universities, faculty were required to attend one of two annual graduation ceremonies, with regalia rentals priced at \$8-\$9. President Rice commented that new faculty members were often broke and a reasonably priced robe rental program would be helpful; perhaps faculty members could buy their hoods. Gretchen Potts commented that perhaps faculty members had been turned off in the past by the circus atmosphere at graduations; now, with announcements being made about proper etiquette, the ceremony is more decorous. Betsy Darken commented that yet another reason for poor attendance at graduation is the devaluation of service at UTC. Newer faculty members are following the example of older faculty in disregarding graduation ceremonies. Gretchen Potts said that in the Chemistry Department, attendance at graduations has a place in the EDO. President Rice wrapped up the discussion by saying that an ad hoc committee may be formed to look into this issue.

#### **4. Old Business: Course Repeat and Grade Replacement Policy**

The Executive Committee presented the following substitute motion to replace the motion from Standards Committee that the Senate had worked to revise at the last Senate meeting.

##### **Course Repeat and Grade Replacement Policy**

Students may repeat any UTC or transfer course, provided prerequisites are met, except courses for which students earned a grade of A or B. (See Note 2 for a special case.)

##### *Grade Replacement for the First Three Repeats*

For the first three repeated courses, excluding courses designated as “r” (for repeatable), the grades will be replaced. That is, the previous attempted hours, earned hours, quality points, and grades will be replaced by the new attempted hours, earned hours, quality points, and grades. Even if the new grade is lower than a previous grade, the new grade will still replace the previous grade and will be the only grade used in the grade point average calculation. Both grades will continue to appear on the transcript with the initial grade reflected by a “/R” designation. (See Note 3 for a special grade replacement situation for “r” courses.)

##### *Subsequent Repeats*

For subsequent courses beyond the first three repeated courses (excluding courses designated as “r”): (a) grades will not be replaced; (b) attempted hours and quality points associated with both grades will be included in the grade point average calculation; and (c) only the earned hours and grade of the last attempt will count toward the cumulative earned hours and degree requirements (excluding GPA calculations) Both grades will appear on the transcript with the initial grades reflected by a “/Z” designation.

### *Effective Date*

This policy is effective as of the Fall 2007 semester and overrides previous catalog policies on repeated courses. Beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, all students will be limited to a maximum of three replaced grades with the following exception: students who have replaced four or five grades as of the end of summer 2007 will be permitted to keep those replacement grades on their records. These students may continue to repeat courses but will not be able to replace any additional grades.

### *Notes*

1. Students who wish to attend a course for which they have already earned an A or B may register as auditors. If a student registers for credit in a course for which a grade of A or B has already been earned, the registration will be changed from credit to audit.
2. An exception regarding the restriction against repeating a course with an A or B grade for credit is made for registered nurses who are required by the School of Nursing to repeat specified sciences courses (Biology 208, 209, 210, Chemistry 121 and 122) that were originally completed 10 years or more prior to the students' admission to the nursing major at UTC.
3. In rare occasions, students may be interested in repeating special types of "r" courses, including Special Topics or Individual Studies courses, to replace a grade. In this situation, the new grade will replace the "r" grade if the following conditions are met: (a) the limit of three replacement grades is not exceeded; (b) the repeated "r" course contains the same content and same number of credit hours as the original "r" course; (c) the department approves the replacement of the grade; and (d) the department notifies the Records Office in writing that the new "r" course grade is to replace the old "r" course grade.
4. Developmental courses (courses which earn institutional credit only) will be included in the grade replacement limit.
5. Grades of S, NC, and W will not be included in the grade replacement limit.
6. For transfer students, a "course" is interpreted as any course listed separately in an individual term on the transcript, regardless of the number of courses needed to equate to a UTC course.
7. When a student is repeating more than one course in a term and exceeds the limit of three replacement grades by the end of this term, the following order will be used to determine replacements: 4-hour F, 3-hour F, 2-hour F; 4-hour D, 3-hour D, 2-hour D, 1-hour F, 1-hour D; 4-hour C, 3-hour C, 2-hour C, 1-hour C; 4-hour B, 3-hour B, 2-hour B, 1-hour B; 4-hour A, 3-hour A, 2-hour A, 1-hour A. In the case of a tie, a grade in a course within the student's major will be replaced first.
8. Students who repeat courses have no choice regarding which three grades are to be replaced. Grades are replaced according to the rules described in the above policy.

President Rice thanked Betsy Darken for being the primary author of this substitute motion. Jim Hiestand, a member of the Standards Committee, moved to accept the substitute motion. Fritz Efav seconded it. President Rice thanked Andy Novobilski for suggesting that the implementation date for this policy be changed from Fall 2006 to Fall 2007. Gavin Townsend asked for a rationale for changing from five to three replaceable grades. Jim Hiestand said the committee had looked at policies of other universities and found that ours was overly generous in comparison. On the other hand, some policies seemed much stricter than ours on the surface, but were actually not so in practice. Professor Hiestand was also asked for the rationale of the

Standards Committee for lifting the restriction of not repeating courses in which an A or B had been earned. [This restriction was re-inserted in the substitute motion.] Professor Hiestand confessed that he could not remember the rationale; he himself had been opposed to lifting the restriction. Registrar Linda Orth, ex officio member of the Standards Committee, said that in regard to the discussion about changing from five to three replacement grades, she recalled that a committee member expressed dismay that students could replace grades in three core courses in the accounting major. Bob Marlowe questioned why a phrase currently in the catalog, about students being responsible for alerting the Records Office regarding a repeated course, was not in the substitute motion. Registrar Orth responded that students could not be relied on to self-report repeats; the registration system is programmed to spot repeats.

The substitute motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Administrative Reports**

Chancellor Brown reported some of the goings-on at the quarterly meeting of the UT Board of Trustees. The Board adopted revisions to the tenure policy involving time frames and part-time tenure and approved new UTC B.S. degrees in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.

The Chancellor also mentioned a forthcoming non-binding student referendum on how to fund the new wellness/fitness center. According to architectural drawings, this center will be a marvel to behold. The SGA Executive Committee has recommended that students vote for the option that postpones any fee increases until 2008. The Chancellor is more inclined toward phasing in a student fee.

Regarding student applications for 2006-2007, the Chancellor said applications are up, perhaps due to a new Early Bird admission program. [The Secretary would like to compliment the people responsible for the flier used to publicize the Early Bird program. It shows a close-up of the UTC mascot eyeing a patch of grass. It's hilarious!] This program had been predicted to yield 300 early applications; instead it yielded over 500. In this set of applications, there was a 2 to 1 ratio of females to males and a 35% increase in African American applications. The Chancellor also commented that the average age of applicants is rising, perhaps due to the leveling off of the echo of the baby boom or perhaps a new trend, with more older people coming back to school.

The Chancellor commented that the increase in applications for Fall 2006 may bear more fruit than last year's surge in applications. The latter did not lead to a significant increase in enrollment, but this year our enrollment projection may be a bit firmer because early bird applicant had to make a monetary deposit. The Chancellor will give departments as much warning as possible about enrollment figures. Steve Kuhn asked if the administration had found out why students did not show up last year. The Chancellor responded that they did not really know; he speculated that having three chancellors in three years may have impacted marketing and recruiting

efforts. President-Elect Gavin Townsend asked if the university had studied demographics related to last year's applications. Associate Provost David Pittenger responded that this was impossible to do using the current antiquated record keeping system.

On a positive note, the Chancellor reported that a special donation has been given to the university to develop a beautiful pedestrian walkway across campus.

President Rice followed up the Chancellor's remarks by noting that the UTK Faculty Senate had had an impact on the final form of the tenure revisions just approved by the UT Board. These revisions will probably have little if any effect at UTC. Provost Burhenn added that these revisions had been discussed thoroughly at the Academic Affairs meeting and there will probably be further tweaking. President Rice remarked that the tenure policy seems to be a moving target.

**6. Other Business.**

None.

**7. Faculty Concerns**

None.

**8. Announcements**

None.

**9. Adjournment: 3:57 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Darken  
Faculty Senate Secretary

