

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
2005-2006 FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
September 15, 2005

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

Among the Guests Present: Linda Orth, Herb Burhenn, Karen Adsit

SUMMARY

No Senators volunteered to serve on Graduate Council and the one non-Senator volunteer was at least temporarily rebuffed because of Handbook requirements. The Handbook Committee is to look into the situation.

Alternates were elected to the Honor Court.

Chancellor Roger Brown reported issues that were discussed at the UT System's recent Strategic Planning Retreat, including decentralization and merit pay. He also expressed concern over the drop in freshman enrollment and our low retention rate.

There was an animated discussion about the need for a culture change at UTC to make UTC a friendlier place for students.

Much concern was expressed about the growing problem of finding faculty willing to serve on committees and the perception that service is not valued or rewarded.

The Provost's Office reported that 26 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina have been enrolled at UTC.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The first regular meeting of the 2005-2006 Senate was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 1, 2005

The Secretary reported a clarification to the minutes of 9/1/05 at the top of page 4: "President Rice commented that *in 2003-2004*, four faculty had been rated below 'meets expectations for rank,' with three leaving the university. [Four faculty were also rated as below 'meets expectations for rank' in 2004-2005.]" The minutes were unanimously approved with this clarification.

3. Executive Committee Report

President Rice reported that English Professor Tom Ware has agreed to chair an ad hoc committee of three to examine the possibility of using a rotating schedule for final exams. The remaining two members of the committee will be announced as soon as Professor Ware corners two volunteers.

Vice-President Greenwell, Chair of the Handbook Committee, announced that the Handbook Committee will meet this week to discuss revisions suggested by the UT System. These include the deletion of repetitive state-imposed language about the EDO process. The Committee will make recommendations regarding revisions to the Executive Committee, which will determine if these changes are substantial enough to need approval by the Senate. With appropriate approval, these revisions will be sent to UTC administrators and then to UT Board of Trustees for their October 27-28 board meeting.

4. Service Committee Report

President Rice reported for the chair of this committee, Past-President Marvin Ernst, who was at an off-campus meeting. The ad hoc Service Committee, which was appointed last fall, has met once. It sent a letter to the UTC administration regarding the legal issue of protection from lawsuits related to off-campus community service. The committee is still waiting for a response to their questions from the UT system and the state. In addition to continued pursuit of answers to this issue, the committee will work this year on two other issues: (a) faculty members' duties with regard to service and (b) the role of service in the EDO process. President Rice commented that these questions can be addressed to UT President Petersen during his campus visit in early October.

5. Graduate Council Elections

President Rice reminded the Senate that the Handbook calls for the Senate to elect two Senate members from non-graduate program departments to the Graduate Council. At the last Senate meeting, there were no volunteers for these positions. Professor Jonathan Mies of Geology, who served on the Graduate Council last year, has agreed to serve again but is not currently a member of the Senate. President Rice reported that the Executive Committee recommends accepting the nomination of Professor Mies despite this fact. Betsy Darken moved and Stephen Kuhn seconded the nomination of Professor Mies. Professor Hiestand, Senate Parliamentarian, pointed out that this nomination was inappropriate since it violated the Handbook. Senator Hiestand was asked for a solution to the problem, but said that as parliamentarian, "I call the balls and strikes, I don't pitch." At this point many Senators jumped in to call balls and strikes about the sanctity of the Handbook, or lack thereof. Senator Darken decided to pitch another motion, this one to amend the Handbook by deleting the requirement that the two representatives to Graduate Council be members of the Faculty Senate. Professor Greenwell seconded. Another melee occurred in which several Senators declared that the Handbook should not be revised just because of expediency and others said that any Handbook changes would not be official until approved by the Board of Trustees. Professor Greenwell commented that minor changes to the Handbook have traditionally been considered to be in effect as soon as they have been approved by the Senate. Senator Darken commented that no one had given an argument in favor of choosing Senators, as opposed to non-Senators, to be on the Graduate Council, so why not change the Handbook? Senator Dumas, chair of the Graduate Council, said that all he wants are representatives who are committed to graduate education. Professor Stephanie Bellar said that the Handbook had already been amended to remove the requirement of Senate membership. Unfortunately none of the versions of the Handbook floating around the room or on the web indicated such a change. Professor Greenwell, chair of the Handbook Committee, said that there is some evidence that changes that have been approved for the Handbook have disappeared into a black hole. Registrar Linda Orth said that the only Handbook change that has been made recently with regard to the Graduate Council has been a redistribution of seats. Confusion reigned. Senator Tony Steinhoff moved and Joanie Sompayrac seconded committing this discussion to the Handbook Committee. The motion to commit passed. Both President Rice and Vice-President Sompayrac, chair of the Committee on Committees, commented on the difficulty of finding faculty members willing to serve on committees.

6. Honor Court Alternates

Professor Sompayrac moved the approval of Theresa Liedtka, Melanie McCoskey, and Michelle White to serve as alternates to the Honor Court. The motion passed unanimously (and with sighs of relief).

7. Administrative Reports

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Brown expressed his regret at missing the first full faculty meeting. At the time he was attending UT President Petersen's Strategic Planning Retreat. He made a number of observations about this retreat. First, with four new vice presidents, there is a new leadership team for the UT system and change is in the air. The retreat focused on four topics: empowering organizational achievement, persuasive communication, fiscal and physical resources, and innovative programs. With regard to organization, there was considerable discussion about

decentralizing some aspects of the UT system. On the up side, Chancellor Brown said that he suggested that UTC have its own campus attorney. On the down side, payroll may be decentralized. Those at the retreat also discussed the need for improving reward systems and sharing resources across campuses. Chancellor Brown was “hopeful but not naïve” about these discussions. At this point it is just talk.

Senator Marlowe asked if cost-of-living increases were discussed at the retreat, in addition to merit pay. Chancellor Brown said that this issue is being taken very seriously. There is no magic answer.

In response to another question, Chancellor Brown expressed dissatisfaction with the current state funding formula—which has only been funded at a 70% level—and with suggested revisions to this formula that favor research institutions.

On another front, Chancellor Brown reported that despite far higher applications and letters of acceptance to applicants, fewer students chose to attend UTC this year than last year. This mystery is being investigated but it is difficult to understand. Also, retention of freshmen at UTC is still not good. About 30% of freshmen do not return to UTC for their sophomore year.

Senator McCullough suggested one reason why freshmen have not come back to UTC: last year, freshmen had to deal with dorms that were not ready, full classes, and even getting shipped to Chattanooga State to take classes there. Many parents must have been unhappy. The Chancellor commented that many students have left UTC Place; it is nowhere near full occupancy and not even breaking even. Last year there were some horror stories of problems there involving plumbing and other difficulties. Besides these problems affecting enrollment, the lottery scholarships have led to a more competitive market. Students have more shopping options. We need to get the message out to students as to why they should want to come to UTC.

Senator Efav asked whether UTC Place could be opened up to evacuees from the Gulf Coast. The Chancellor responded that they had looked into that possibility but that there is no longer a need for this space.

Several senators commented that students may have left UTC out of chagrin that UTC had ignored the student referendum opposing an athletics fee. Senator Winters remarked that other universities do a much better job of advertising themselves. The Chancellor added that 29 colleges are recruiting in the Chattanooga area.

Senator Sompayrac emphatically stated that the main reason for lower enrollment is not lack of marketing. UTC needs to undergo a culture change and become more welcoming to students. A number of years ago, she chaired a recruitment committee that made a number of recommendations about how to make such a change. These recommendations have been ignored. Senator Sompayrac knows that students on campus are often treated poorly because she is often mistaken for a student and is treated politely only after she has identified herself as a faculty member. She also pointed out that campus offices close at 5 p.m. even though many students come only in the evening. We need to remember that we are here for the students; other universities bend over backwards for their students but UTC does not. Chancellor Brown asked for the recommendations made by Professor Sompayrac’s committee to be sent to him. Senator Darken supported Senator Sompayrac’s remarks, saying that she has also witnessed many instances in which students have been treated rudely and abruptly. Sometimes it seems that students are regarded only as sources of revenue for maintaining research. The Chancellor said that this issue will be a topic of conversation this year.

President Rice added that a recent issue of the Economist included an article entitled “The Brains Business” that has a bearing on these issues.

Provost’s Report

With the Provost out of town (but winging his way in at this very moment), Associate Provost Pittenger gave a brief report. Twenty-six students displaced by Hurricane Katrina have been enrolled at UTC.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Faculty Concerns

Professor Sompayrac, Chair of the Committee on Committees, commented on the growing problem of finding faculty willing to serve on committees. She reported the results of a quick count she conducted of this year’s committee members compared to the number of faculty in each school: 39% of Arts and Sciences faculty members serve on faculty and Faculty Senate committees, compared to 42% for Business, 46% for Engineering, and 36% for CHEPS. President Rice pointed out that this does not take into account service by faculty on administrative committees. These committees can also be very time-consuming. Professor McCullough said that this was certainly true of the administrative Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Some committees require so much work that serving on one committee is enough. Professor Darken reported a remark made recently by the outside evaluator for the Mathematics Department’s recent 5-year review. The evaluator (a mathematics department head) commented that the math faculty at his institution are too busy to serve on university committees, heavily implying that the latter type of service is not worthy of his faculty’s time. This type of attitude is not unknown at UTC. Professor Dumas suggested that the Senate should do what it can to remove barriers to committee participation. President Rice commented that one faculty committee has been loathe to meet until its members hear from President Petersen about the situation with regard to merit pay.

10. Announcements

President Rice announced the called Faculty Meeting on September 27. He also reminded the Senate that President Petersen will be on campus in October, when he can be informed personally of the concerns expressed at this meeting.

11. Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Darken
Faculty Senate Secretary