

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
2005-2006 FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
 December 1, 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,	Jonathan McNair, Judith Wakim
Adjunct		Tim Parker
Behavioral	Fritz Efaw, Helen Eigenberg, Shela Van Ness	David Brodsky
Business	Debbie Archambeault, Beni Asllani, Chris Brockman, John Alvis	
Engineering	Joe Dumas, Jim Hiestand, Kathy Winters	Roger Briley
Fine Arts	Matt Greenwell, Jillian Zwilling, Gavin Townsend	
CHEPS	Burch Oglesby, Linda Johnston, Kay Lindgren Dana Wertemberger, Robin Lee	Ted Miller
Humanities	Vicki Steinberg, Jennifer Beech Tony Steinhoff, Elizabeth Gailey	Chuck Lippy
Library	Mike Bell	Priscilla Seaman
Math & Science	Bob Marlowe, Betsy Darken, Gretchen Potts, Sharon Brueggeman	Henry Spratt
Ex-Officio	Roger Brown, David Pittenger, Jocelyn Sanders,	Theresa Liedtka, John Friedl, Richard Brown, Mary Lynn Williamson

Among the Guests Present: Mary Tanner, Linda Orth, Margaret Trimpey, Gerry Ann Bosworth, Toni Carter, Brian Bogdanowicz, Herb Burhenn

SUMMARY

The Senate approved the formation of a UT system-wide Faculty Council, motions from the Petitions Committee related to deadlines for suspensions and dismissals, and seven curriculum proposals. Chancellor Brown thanked Provost Friedl for his achievements, requested recommendations and ideas for an acting provost, announced plans to begin a national search for a new provost hopefully to be completed by July 1, and addressed questions about the openness of the budget process, the identity of the chief financial officer, and the situation regarding UC Foundation funds.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 11/17/05 were approved unanimously.

3. Executive Committee Report

President Rice reported that the Executive Committee has met with a number of department heads and members of the Petitions Committee to discuss perceived problems with the petitions process. The Executive Committee will continue to investigate this matter and report on its findings in January.

4. System-wide UT Faculty Council

The Executive Committee recommended the approval of a plan to create a system-wide Faculty Council consisting of two representatives from each campus, including the Faculty President. President Rice briefly discussed the purpose of the proposed UT Faculty Council (UTFC) as providing direct access to the UT President. [“The mission of the UT System Faculty Council is to confer with, advise, and communicate with the President of the University of Tennessee system and his staff, as is appropriate, with regard to matters of interest to the faculties and other matters of system-wide importance.”] He accepted a number of friendly amendments: (a) to strike “track” from the phrase, “Members elected to the UTFC shall be full-time tenured track faculty.” (II, 1); (b) to strike the last sentence in this section, “In addition, the Board of trustees faculty appointee from a UT Faculty Senate shall be a voting ex-officio member,” since this faculty appointee is the President of his or her Senate and is already a member of the UTFC; and to change “Knoxville” to “Chattanooga” in the two resolutions. Senator Joe Dumas asked what good this Council would serve in addition to adding another layer of bureaucracy and incurring expenses. President Rice responded that direct contact between faculty representatives and the UT president are valuable and are worth the cost of minimal expenses. The motion to approve the UTFC charter and the resolutions in favor of the UTFC, moved by Tony Steinhoff and seconded by Stephen Kuhn, passed.

4. Petitions Committee Motions

Speaking in place of Melanie McCoskey, the Chair of the Petitions Committee who could not be present, President Rice presented two motions from this committee:

- (a) Change the deadline for submitting petitions appeals for academic suspension, academic dismissal, and excess hours to one week before classes begin;
- (b) Add two alternates to the Undergraduate Petitions Committee.

As President Rice and various members of the Petitions Committee pointed out, the current deadline, three days after the semester begins, sets students up for failure: those whose appeals are approved start the semester late. If the first motion is approved, the Petitions Committee expects to meet prior to the beginning of Spring and Fall Semesters to consider petitions; since some faculty will be away during this time, the committee needs alternates available to make quorums.

A discussion ensued in which it became clear that these motions apply only to undergraduate petitions, that students appealing suspensions and dismissals after Spring Semester should not expect to take courses during the first summer term, that students receive grades electronically within one or two days of the end of finals, that there are very few non-RAP students who do not receive grades electronically, and that the Handbook will need to be changed. The motion passed.

6. Curriculum Committee

Burch Oglesby, chair of the Curriculum Committee, moved the approval of seven curriculum proposals, all unanimously approved by the committee: (a) changes in the RN to BSN, (b) Math 215 and Math 216, (c) Movement Science concentration, (d) Biological and Environmental Science foreign language proposal, (e) Chemistry foreign language proposal, (f) Chemistry 434 prerequisite changes, and (g) Fren 299r/Span299r and Fren 399r/Span 399r. The motion passed, 29-0.

7. Administrative Reports

Chancellor Brown thanked the faculty and the Faculty Senate for their work this semester, complimenting the Senate on their seriousness and the tone of their discussions. He then recognized the value and contributions of Provost John Friedl, who is resigning at the end of this calendar year. He expressed appreciation for Dr. Friedl's accomplishments, with his intense focus on academics and the integrity of his approach. The Chancellor said that he is moving quickly to select an acting provost by first asking for input from the faculty, the Senate, the associate provosts, deans, and department heads. This input can include recommendations, ideas about the process of selection, and suggestions about desirable attributes of an acting provost. A national search for a new provost will be instituted in January, with appropriate announcements in journals such as the Chronicle for Higher Education, with the hope of filling this position by July 1, 2006. This is an ambitious but possible deadline. However, "we will not rush." If no suitable candidate is found, then the search will continue. The Chancellor remarked that because John Friedl has led academic affairs in a "strong and competent way," this will be good for attracting strong candidates.

Chancellor Brown also announced his intent to call a university convocation in early 2006 for the purpose of spelling out to the UTC community his aspirations and vision for UTC.

Senator Efav asked about a recent report by Richard Casavant and others on management of the UTC budget process. The Chancellor said he is well aware of this report, which addressed the style and effectiveness of communications between the provost, chancellor, and vice chancellor for budget and finance. These communications, he said, must become much more interactive and open. In answer to a question, the Chancellor said the chief financial officer for UTC is the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations (currently Richard Brown). He was asked if this creates an intrinsic conflict of interest and whether it would be better for the CFO to be separate from this vice chancellor. The Chancellor responded that it is typical for the CFO to be the vice chancellor for finance and operations, that UTC has two auditors who serve a robust oversight function, and that the books are well-kept and balanced. These guard against mismanagement. The system and process are not flawed. Individuals within this system are a separate matter.

A senator said that Provost Friedl's management of the budget process has been perceived to be very open but there is a sense that Richard Brown's management style is not so open. The faculty wants open communication about budgetary issues, with all items clearly on the table. The Chancellor replied that he has heard and understood these concerns and is addressing the matter. He will be sharing budget information with the university community and this year's budget hearings will be quite different. "Judge for yourself." If the budget process this year is not transparent and fully accessible, "blame me."

A concern was also raised about the UC Foundation's funds being redirected away from faculty activities to other purposes, including new buildings and programs. The Chancellor said that "we" will be looking at faculty proposals and that money will be available for faculty research proposals by July 2006. The funding relationship between the UC Foundation and the UTC operating budget is a big issue. There is a need to understand what this relationship is and what it should be. He has discussed these matters with UC Foundation officers. The sole purpose of the UC Foundation is to support UTC.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Faculty Concerns

Senator Betsy Darken repeated a concern that she had raised last year about a rule against posting office hours and other information on office doors in the Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science Building. This is very student unfriendly. Professor Darken said that she has received no response from Richard Brown to her several queries on this subject. At this point a number of denizens of EMCS cheerfully admitted to violating this rule, with Jim Hiestand adding that he had circumvented the rule by using a metal frame for his office hours. The Chancellor was seen to be taking notes on this matter, as Vice Chancellor Brown was not present.

10. Announcements

President Rice announced that the next meeting of the Senate will be on January 19, 2006. Remaining meetings of the 2005-2006 year are as follows: Feb. 2nd and 16th, March 2nd and 23rd, and April 6th and 20th.

Registrar Linda Orth announced that the UTC undergraduate catalog is now in html format on the web; departments should link their websites.

Senator Matt Greenwell, Chair of the Handbook Committee, reported that the committee is working on getting system approval for the handbook changes, but it is like “herding cats.”

11. Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Darken
Faculty Senate Secretary