

UTC Faculty Senate Minutes
Signal Mountain Room, University Center, 3:10 p.m.
October 5, 2006

NOTE: Thanks to Stephanie Bellar (POLs) for taking these notes while I was out of town.
---Gretchen Potts, Faculty Senate Secretary

The minutes can also be found at: <http://www.utc.edu/FacultySenate/minutes.php>

Division	Present	Absent
President	Gavin Townsend	
Past-President	Richard Rice	
At-large	Jim Hiestand, Cheryl Robinson, Joanie Sompayrac, Judith Wakim, Randy Walker, Michelle White	
Adjunct	Jean Howard-Hill	
Behavioral Science	Fritz Efaw, Lyn Miles, Shela Van Ness	Helen Eigenberg
Business Administration	Beni Asllani, Chris Brockman	Debbie Archambeault, Diane Halstead
Engineering and Computer Sci.	Ignatius Fomunung, Claire McCullough,	Roger Briley, Kathy Winters
Fine Arts		Stuart Benkert, Mac Smotherman, Jillian Zwilling
CHEPS	John Freeman, Dolly Gerregano, Linda Johnston	Kay Lindgren, Michelle Vineyard, Dana Wertenberger
Humanities	Rebecca Jones, Felicia Sturzer, Joe Wilferth	Jennifer Beech, Matthew Guy
Library	Mike Bell, Jason Griffey	
Math and Sciences	Sharon Brueggeman, Betsy Darken, Robert Marlowe, Manuel Santiago	Margaret Kovach
Ex-Officio	Herb Burhenn, Theresa Liedtka, David Pittenger, Jocelyn Sanders	Roger Brown, Richard Brown, Hugh Prevost

Among the guests present: Stephanie Bellar, Bruce Hutchinson, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Charles Nelson, Linda Orth, Mike Russell

Summary: Curriculum proposals for Geology 321, 303, 490, History, 103,104,105,370,328, and HECO 426 were approved.

1. Call to Order: Faculty Senate President Townsend called the meeting to order at 3:10.

2. Approval of the minutes from September 21, 2006: There was one correction of the minutes, a typo on page 2 Dr. Ingraham's comment "...for what class..". Corrected minutes were approved by voice vote.

3. Executive Committee Report: No report was given.

4. Curriculum Committee Report: Dr. Hutchinson presented the curriculum proposals as a package. Dr. Hiestand had a question about the format for the language in the course description. Ms. Orth explained that specifying which course title the course formerly was called is presented at the end of the course description. Dr. Hiestand asked about the Middle East class, why has it not been offered in a decade. Dr. Russell replied he has not had a faculty member who could teach the class. He remains hopeful of finding that faculty person. President Townsend asked about the purge rule; courses would be dropped from the catalog after 10 years if they were not offered. Ms. Orth said the implementation of the purge rule was left to the respective departments. Dr. Hiestand inquired about the HECO 229 course being offered in the summer. Even though the change now gives student credit hours for the experience, students will now have to pay for a summer class. Dr. Robinson replied the course had been offered during the summer, this proposal made the structure formal. Dr. Hiestand asked about the

attendance policy for HECO 426. Is the grade penalty for excessive absences limited to the first three unexcused absences? What happens if a student misses more than three classes? There was no one available to respond to that question.

The curriculum packaged proposal was passed by a vote of 26-0-0.

5. Administrative Reports: Dr. Burhenn reminded members of the Senate that sabbatical requests were due soon. Academic Affairs encourages all faculty members to respond to the student progress reports. This is one way to help with our retention efforts. Dr. Sturzer asked who sees the reports, more specifically do the students? Dr. Pittenger said he did not think students would see the reports. Advisors would use the reports to provide a more global assessment to the student, suggest study strategies and the like.

Dr. Efaw had a series of questions for Dr. Burhenn; the specific questions, are presented in Appendix A. Dr. Burhenn said that the UTC plan for pay raises for this past year had to be approved by the system and he saw no reason to expect a change for next year's plan. He further noted there was no plan for next year on the table and it was premature to speculate on what that plan may be. For the issue of staff Dr. Efaw inquired about the rating system and Dr. Burhenn acknowledged the lack of a rating system would be problematic. Dr. Van Ness asked about the pay raises for supervisors. How were they managed? Dr. Pittenger said there were no pay raises other than the 2% for exempt and non-exempt staff. Dr. Efaw asked about the merit rating for Deans. Dr. Burhenn reminded the Senate he was in an acting position and could not commit the administration to a plan of action. Dr. Hill asked about adjuncts; was there a possibility they would be included in merit raises in the future? Dr. Burhenn explained that adjunct pay is not a budgeted item so again, it is hard to predict what could happen. That said, there will be a request for additional resources for adjuncts in next years' budget requests. Dr. Hill inquired about a second fiscal issue. Could he speak to the pay disparity, within departments, for adjuncts? Dr. Burhenn said there may not be a good explanation.

6. Other Business: None

7. Faculty Concerns: Dr. Hiestand explained that due to an unfortunate meeting of his pet and his faculty id card, he had to replace his identification card. He opined the process was punitive and costly. It involved going to two separate offices, one for the making of the card and another to pay for the card.

Dr. Hill raised the subject of parking for adjuncts. It is a burden for adjuncts who leave work to come for campus for one class, often taught during the popular class times when lots are full. Even when adjuncts buy parking tags for reserved lots, there is no space because the lots are over subscribed. Many full time faculty joined in saying this problem was not unique for adjuncts. Dr. Hill's concern however is that fulltime faculty have the ability to control their timing of arrival on campus while adjuncts, who leave their place of fulltime employment, do not. She is asking for parking amnesty for adjuncts. Dr. Burhenn and Townsend agreed this was an item appropriate for the Executive Committee to work with Dr. Richard Brown on, to look for a good resolution. Dr. Van Ness offered there needs to be the recognition of a deeper set of problems of exploited workers on campus. Dr. Darken suggested that parking should be a part of the compensation package for adjuncts. It was reiterated that the Executive Committee should look into the possibilities of a solution.

8. Announcements: None

9. Adjournment: Motion made by Dr. Sompayrac, voice vote, passed unanimously.

Appendix A Questions of the Week from Dr. Efaw

A. President Peterson has said he wants to extend his merit pay plan to staff starting next year. Will you support and implement such a change?

B. Merit pay is more often applied to executive employees than to line workers. Yet the administration has not had their raises based on measures of "merit." Are you will to do this in future by, for example, taking half of total salary increased that would go to all deans and awarding this to a single dean as a "merit award"?