

Faculty Senate Minutes
Signal Mountain Room, University Center, 3:10 p.m.
November 16, 2006

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, Judith Wakim, Randy Walker, and Michelle White	Joanie Sompayrac
Adjunct	Jean Howard-Hill	
Behavioral Sciences	Fritz Efaw, Lyn Miles, Helen Eigenberg, and Shela Van Ness	
Business Adm.	Debbie Archambeault, Beni Asllani, Chris Brockman, and Diane Halstead	
Eng & Comp Sci	Claire McCullough and Ignatius Formunung	Roger Briley and Kathy Winters
Fine Arts	Jillian Zwilling and Mac Smotherman	Stuart Benkert
CHEPS	Linda Johnston, John Freeman, and Michelle Vineyard	Dolly Gerregano, Kay Lindgren, and Dana Wertenberger
Humanities	Felicia Sturzer, Rebecca Jones, and Matthew Guy	Joe Wilferth
Library	Mike Bell	Jason Griffey
Math and Sciences	Betsy Darken, Bob Marlowe, Peggy Kovach, and Manuel Santiago	Sharon Brueggeman
Ex-Officio	Herb Burhenn, David Pittenger, and Jocelyn Sanders	Roger Brown, Richard Brown, Theresa Liedtka and Hugh Prevost

Among the guests present: Stephanie Bellar, Terry Denniston, Bruce Hutchinson, Linda Orth, Debbie Ingram, Charles Nelson, and Stephanie Smullen

Summary: The Faculty Senate passed a motion to recommend to the administration that the summer graduation be eliminated. In addition, the Senate also recommended the elimination of the post ceremony reception at all graduations. The Senate authorized the faculty senate executive committee to accept comments/changes to the Bredesen letter and to send it on to the governor on behalf of the Senate. Any suggestions or changes should be sent to Gavin-Townsend@utc.edu by Sunday, November 19, 2006. The Senate voted approval (24-0-0) of the curriculum changes from Nursing, Finance, History and the Provost's Office (Change to 497/498 description). Faculty Senate also accepted a rewording of 7.2.1 in the Faculty Handbook.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:13 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes from November 2, 2006:

Dr. Townsend moved approval of the minutes. **Approved by voice vote** with three corrections: add "partial" before differential equations in Dr. Brueggeman's comment, correct the spelling of Jim Hiestand's name, and John Freeman (CHEPS) was present.

http://www.utc.edu/Departments/fcouncil/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2006_07/2006_07Minutes/2006Minutes_1102.pdf

3. Report from Executive Committee
 - a. Reduction to two Commencement Ceremonies:

Dr. Townsend gave a PowerPoint presentation of pros and cons of reducing commencement to two ceremonies ([Appendix A: Dr. Townsend's PowerPoint presentation](#)). Dr. Ingram (head of previous commencement ceremony committee) had a survey of the faculty that indicated 46% of the faculty wanted two ceremonies/yr, 28% wanted three ceremonies/yr, and 26% wanted one ceremony/yr. Dr. Ingram had a worry about space in the arena. Linda Orth indicated that she didn't think it would be a problem. Dr. Ingram wondered which graduation ceremony would have the larger attendance and could we accommodate them? Dr. Pittenger said that space was an unknown as many students do not participate in graduation. We will have ample floor space for students and faculty. Dr. McCullough reminded everyone of the temperature at summer graduation.

Dr. Darken reminded the Senate that we voted on this very matter a couple of years ago. The matter was debated at that time, but it was voted down. Dr. Rice supported Dr. Darken and indicated that the administration was looking at the bottom line. Dr. Pittenger reminded the Senate that students who have a reasonable time to graduate (within 20 hours of graduating), those students would be allowed to participate in graduation before they have completed their degrees. Dr. White wondered if there was a limit on the audience attendance. Dr. Ingram indicated that currently, there is not a limit. Dr. Pittenger told the Senate that students who are graduating are informed about special arrangements for the handicapped. Dr. Sturzer stated that removing one graduation ceremony does not diminish graduation and that three graduations a year is excessive. Dr. Vineyard reminded the senate that if a graduation ceremony became too large we could go to graduation ceremonies by college.

Dr. Hiestand didn't think the arena size would be a problem, but we would definitely lengthen the time that everyone would have to sit and listen to names. Linda Orth indicated that the summer ceremony has reduced attendance. Dr. Darken really would like to keep the tradition of calling names, even if it meant having college ceremonies. Dr. Walker wondered if anyone has asked the students. Dr. Ingram did not know. Dr. Ingram wondered if by going to two graduations if there were be a change in faculty attendance. Dr. McCullough said that it was on her EDO that she attends two graduations per year. Dr. Miles felt the \$25K savings was extremely important and the financial savings was something to which we should pay attention. Dr. McCullough felt we should eliminate the reception or make it nicer. Dr. Sanders has spoken with student leaders and that the students expressed that there should not be a lavish reception. Dr. Bell made a motion that we recommend that we eliminate the summer commencement, seconded by Dr. Miles. Dr. Vineyard wanted to know if the elimination of graduation was a part of this. It was not. **Motion passed by voice vote.** Dr. McCullough moved that we recommend that we eliminate the reception following the ceremony, seconded by Dr. Rice. Dr. Hiestand spoke against this. **The motion carried.**

http://www.utc.edu/Departments/fcouncil/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2006_07/2006_07Attachments/2006CommencementMemos.pdf

b. Letter to Governor Bredesen:

This letter was drafted by the faculty senate president at UTK. It has been shared with all UT-system schools. Dr. Hiestand objected to some of the wording that indicates that all of our promising faculty are leaving. Dr. Efav said there was some anecdotal evidence that indicates that junior faculty in the political science department at UTK were looking for jobs elsewhere. A few years ago the department heads at UTC were asked why younger faculty were leaving the departments and Provost Burhenn indicated that it was anecdotal. Dr. Rice spoke of knowing faculty who left UTC and UTK to take jobs that paid more and had less contact hours. Dr. Halstead said we shouldn't think of it as anecdotal more as personal reasons. Some people have left in business for more competitive salaries. Dr. Sturzer agreed that the phrase should be eliminated or edited. In the 3rd paragraph, the 2nd to last line, **add "some of"** in front of "our most promising faculty".

Dr. Vineyard told us that HECO could not hire a department head because the money was not there. Dr. McCullough indicated that we need to change anything that says "UT" to "Chattanooga", so that the governor distinguishes us from Knoxville. Also, there should be sentence that describes how the faculty at Board of Regents schools were compensated. Dr. Van Ness felt the most important statement was the last sentence, but it is too long. It needs to be earlier, maybe the first paragraph. Dr. Walker disagreed. He sees this as a building process instead of starting with a bang. Dr. Rice suggested that we remove "given the state of ...resources". Dr. Miles suggested that "that for" be removed from the second sentence in the last paragraph and change "to" to "must". Dr. Asllani suggested that we drop the last sentence of the third paragraph. Dr. Smotherman suggested we remove "most promising and mobile" in the same sentence. Dr. Miles believes we should add a sentence at the beginning that talks of salaries earlier in the letter because it is not until the end of the letter. Dr. Vineyard suggested that we send suggestions to Dr. Townsend. Dr. Vineyard moved that we accept the concept of the letter but that the language be fine-tuned by suggestions from the senate. This was seconded by Dr. Sturzer. Dr. Hiestand wondered if this authorizes the executive committee to send the letter. Dr. Vineyard withdrew the motion. Dr. McCullough moved that we accept the concept of the letter and that we, the faculty senate, send our tweaks of the letter to the executive committee. Comments to be submitted by Sunday, 11/19/06. Seconded by Dr. Miles. Dr. Miles called the question. There was no objection. **Passed by voice vote.**

http://www.utc.edu/Departments/fcouncil/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2006_07/2006_07Attachments/2006FacultySenateGovernorLetterV1.pdf

4. Curriculum Committee (Curriculum committee votes in parenthesis)

- a. School of Nursing Curriculum Revision: Semester III (Approved: 8-0-0)
- b. Introduction of a “Business Finance Track” and an “Investments Track” within the Finance Concentration: The Committee requested that the wording on the last page be changed to “Completion of additional hours from one of the following tracks.” On behalf of the Finance Department, Bento Lobo accepted the re-wording. (Approved: 9-0-1)
- c. History 424: African American Women’s History: (Approved: 8-1-1)
- d. Revision of 497 and 498 Course Descriptions: (Accepted: 10-0-0)

Dr. Hutchinson moved that we approve all of the curriculum changes. Dr. Walker asked if the revision of 497/498 was campus wide. Dr. Hutchinson indicated that this would add a sentence to all 497/498. **Approved: 24-0-0**

http://www.utc.edu/Departments/fcouncil/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2006_07/2006_07Attachments/CurriculumProposals_111606.pdf

5. Faculty Handbook Committee (FHC) – Revisions to 7.2.1: Faculty Research Grants

This was brought by the FHC. Dr. Walker wondered if we could see a comparison of the original to the changed version. This was shown on the media projector. This change was a recommendation from the Faculty Development Committee and it went to FHC for editing. Dr. Eigenberg felt that it was important that this part of the handbook be clarified. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

http://www.utc.edu/Departments/fcouncil/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2006_07/2006_07Attachments/2006HandbookRevisions_FRC.pdf

6. Administrative Reports

Dr. Burhenn wanted to let us know that on Wednesday, November 29, 2006, former senator Howard Baker will be on campus to give a casual lecture in the UC Auditorium. Over the next few weeks, we will need to develop a scheme for implementing the salary compensation fund. The provost will work with the Budget and Economic Status Committee and other groups. The nonsmoking policy is now in effect. If you are going to smoke, you must be at least 25 feet from the entrance to buildings. The strategic planning committees will be formed in the next month or so. Dr. Efaw wondered if the strategic planning was really worth it, what it was and why we were paying someone else to do this. Dr. Burhenn said that this is an attempt to look at very broad directions that the University might go and how we would grow. The question of “what we are” is a moving target and we need to revisit it. One issue that might emerge is how we distinguish ourselves from other universities

7. Other Business: none

8. Faculty Concerns

Dr. Potts wondered why students have to “FAX” their immunization records to Student Health, making it very inaccessible, student “unfriendly”. Dr. Pittenger said that the holds have been taken down temporarily and that the dean of students and the chancellor’s office are very aware of this problem and that they are going to make this more student friendly in the immediate future. Linda Orth said that these holds will be put back on the accounts November 24, 2006.

President Townsend wanted to know what the deadline was to get curriculum changes into the catalog. The curriculum committee has a deadline of November 15, 2006. Linda Orth said that the Faculty Senate would need to make all approvals by the last meeting in January 2007. The online catalog is the same as the printed version.

9. Announcements: none

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:43 P.M.

Appendix A: Dr. Townsend's PowerPoint Presentation

**Arguments in Favor of
Eliminating Summer
Commencement**

We would save \$25K a year – funds that could be used to finance more renowned speakers for Fall and Spring Commencements

We would save considerable personal time and energy.

Students graduating in the Summer would be eligible to participate in either the Spring or Fall Commencements

Faculty seem to hate attending Summer Commencements

UTK doesn't have Summer Commencements

**Arguments Against
Eliminating Summer
Commencement***

For students who graduate in the Summer, it is appropriate for them and their families to celebrate the accomplishment during the Summer

Summer Commencements provide UTC with another publicity opportunity. Are we willing to part with that?

Students who graduate in the Summer might be less willing to participate in Commencement altogether if they have to accelerate their paperwork to participate in the Spring or wait to celebrate in the Fall.

Having three Commencements is what's best for the students. Aren't they what it's all about?

***as distilled from comments made at the Senate meeting of April 20, 2006**