

2007 – 2008 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Signal Mountain Room, University Center, 3:10 p.m.
April 03, 2008

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, Tammy Garland, Linda Hill Michelle White, and Chris Stuart	Randy Walker
Adjunct	Ann Thomas Moore	
Behavioral Sciences	Helen Eigenberg and Lyn Miles	Tom Buchanan and Terri LeMoyne
Business Adm.	Debbie Archambeault, Diane Halstead and Kathleen Wheatley	Beverly Brockman
Eng & Comp Sci		Claire McCullough, Li Yang, Michel Holder and Ignatius Fomunung
Fine Arts	Patrick Sweetman	Stuart Benkert and Mac Smotherman
CHEPS	Linda Johnston, Dolly Gerregano, and Michelle Vineyard	John Freeman, Dana Wertemberger, and Kay Lindgren
Humanities	Oralia Preble-Niemi and Joe Wilferth	Matthew Guy, Lauren Ingraham, Felicia Sturzer, and Rebecca Jones
Library	Colleen Harris	
Math & Sciences	Bob Marlowe, Doug Kutz, Marc Loizeaux and Eddie Wang	Peggy Kovach
Ex-Officio	Phil Oldham, Theresa Liedtka, Jocelyn Sanders and John Delaney	David Pittenger, Richard Brown, and Roger Brown
SGA Liaison		

Among the guests present: Linda Orth, Ralph Covino, Yvonne Kilpatrick, Bruce Hutchinson, Jim Cunningham, Herb Burhenn, Chuck Cantrell, Bill Staley (SGA) and Ron Nelson.

Summary: After a presentation by Ron Nelson and Bill Staley on the new Campus Recreation Center, the Faculty Senate voted to recommend that Faculty/Staff access to the new facility be a fringe benefit paid for by the administration. The Senate also passed curriculum proposal 08-069 from nursing by a vote of 23 – 0 – 0. The senate voted for consistency on the attendance policies found in several university documents by requesting that the attendance policy in the Undergraduate Catalog be used for the Faculty Handbook and the Student Handbook. The Senate also passed several changes to the Faculty Handbook. The Senate is soliciting nominations for a representative to the Board of Trustees, preferably a previous Senate president. The elections will be held at the next Senate meeting. Finally, there was a concern about how classrooms for the fall semester were distributed do to the lack of classrooms on campus. Provost Oldham stated that he would look into the issue.

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM.

2. Approval of minutes from March 6, 2008:

Minutes were approved with the following corrections: (1) Kay Lindgren was in attendance (2) Under 3 (2.2.3) correct the spelling of “Hiestand”, add a space between land, insert “to” ahead of “modify” and remove final period (3) Under 3 (2.3.5) change “December” to “January” (4) Under 3, Section 2, capitalize department names, change “were” to “was” after “Military Sciences”, Gavin didn’t table the question; he said he would look into it. (5) Under 3b delete “that” after “discussed”, delete “in place” after “system”, insert “the” after “discuss” and replace “University’s” with “Universities” (6) Under 4 , insert “the” ahead of “Humanities” and ahead of “Senate”

http://www.utc.edu/FacultySenate/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2007_08/2007_08Minutes/2008Minutes_0306.pdf

3. Update on New Campus Recreation Center (Ron Nelson, Director of Campus Recreation)

Bill Staley (SGA) and Ron Nelson addressed the Senate about the new Campus Recreation Center. The building will be very similar to the engineering building. The big tower is a climbing wall. The first floor is 15,000 square foot workout area. There will be a state of the art rock climbing facility, a dance studio and classrooms. You will enter on the 2nd floor. The only way in will be to use your UTCID. There will be two indoor soccer/basketball courts. The third floor will have a running track and other rooms. There will be a pool with several recreational features. The building will open in 2009 and the pool will open in 2010. There is a committee that is looking at usage and is trying to determine faculty/staff usage.

Richard Rice asked about McClellan gym and Ron Nelson stated that it would remain the same. Michelle Vineyard (HHP) stated that a big push in the department is active living and she urges that it be open to anyone in the UTC community. Why not make it a fringe benefit? The Campus Recreation Committee will make a recommendation to the Chancellor. Send any questions or comments to Ron-Nelson@utc.edu.

Richard Rice moved that the Senate make a vote on the options. Colleen Harris seconded the motion. The three options were: (1) no access for Faculty/Staff (2) access paid by Faculty/Staff or (3) access by a fringe benefit for which the administration pays. Lyn Miles called the question and there were not any objections. The vote was 1 (1) – 2 (2) – 18 (3) in favor of access by a fringe benefit.

4. Curriculum Committee (Bruce Hutchinson)

Bruce Hutchinson first thanked Linda Orth and Sandy Zitkus for all their help. People don't realize how much effort that goes into getting proposals ready for committee. The proposal from nursing passed by a vote of 23 – 0 – 0. http://www.utc.edu/FacultySenate/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2007_08/2007_08Attachments/040308_Curriculum.pdf

5. Consolidated Attendance Policy (Joe Wilferth)

Joe Wilferth presented the attendance policies that are in three campus documents: the Undergraduate Catalog, the Student Handbook and the Faculty Handbook. There were not any contradictions with the three policies, but the last two do deal with excused absences. The executive committee moved that the policy in the Undergraduate Catalog be adopted as language for all three publications and at a later date, a policy on excused absences be developed.

Ann Thomas Moore asked if the policy mentions the amount of classes missed. The policy does not mention this. She also asked what the modern standard is for missed classes. How many missed classes appropriate? Richard Rice suggested we focus on the generic policy but then have a future discussion on more detailed guidelines.

The Senate voted by voice vote to approve the motion.

Lyn Miles asked if UTC had a uniform attendance policy, a long time ago. Ann Thomas Moore answered probably yes.

Richard Rice asked how many departments have attendance policies. The answer was chemistry and foreign language (who had representatives at the meeting, there could be others).

John Delaney asked that he be giving the wording because the UT-System might need to approve it.

http://www.utc.edu/FacultySenate/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2007_08/2007_08Attachments/040308_AttendancePolicy.pdf

6. Faculty Handbook Committee (Oralia Preble-Niemi): changes that are blocked out were not considered

- a. 2.2.1, 2.2.5 – The change to define full faculty was **approved by a voice vote**.
- b. 2.2.3 – This brings uniformity to addressing the title of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. This was **approved by voice vote**.
- e. ~~2.3.2. Section 2~~

- d. ~~2.3.3. Section 2, Elected Members~~ and Apportionment – The apportionment section adds Military Sciences to apportionment, removes Administration after College of Business and adds CHEPS. **This passed by voice vote.** The first part on elected members will wait until another time.
- e. ~~2.3.4. Nomination and Election of the Adjunct Faculty Senate Member~~
- f. 2.3.5. Section 2 – (remove “shall be elected”, this is an error) Jim Hiestand moved an amendment to change “and they will be confirmed” to “subject to confirmation by”.

Patrick Sweetman asked why the change was necessary at all. Gavin Townsend answered that the first and second vice-presidents are currently elected at the organizational meeting of the Senate. The problem has to do with the chaos associated with the meeting. Richard Rice that in practice it is very difficult to find people to fill those two offices. Trying to hold an election at the final meeting makes it difficult to fill the positions. Colleen Harris felt that the language does not cover situations where the Senate does not confirm the officers. Joe Wilferth asked that we give the Faculty Handbook Committee some direction. Richard Rice stated that it could say something like “if not confirmed, motions would be considered from the floor”.

The first amendment to change the motion was approved. The Senate also **voted to approve the wording as amended.** It was also asked that the committee look into adding something that addresses what would happen if the Senate does not confirm those officers suggested by the President.

- g. 2.3.6. Section 1 – Jim Hiestand asked that a date be included. Eddie Wang asked if the part of election of 1st and 2nd vice-president needs to be changed. Ralph Covino stated that it does not need to be changed. Lyn Miles asked about the capitalization of “president” within the text. It was agreed that “President” should be capitalized. **This was approved by voice vote.**
- h. 2.3.7. Section 2 (Guidelines for Committee Appointments) and Section 3, Curriculum Committee, General Education Committee, Library Committee, and Part-Time Faculty Committee – there was a friendly amendment to change “Untenured tenure-track faculty” to “Probationary faculty”. **This was passed by voice vote.** Also, all the curriculum, general education and library committee language that discusses “Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Special Program” be changed to “Associate Provost for Academic Affairs”. **This was passed by voice vote.**

Joe Wilferth reminded everyone to send their committee requests as soon as possible.

Anything above that was not voted on (things marked out) will be reconsidered by the Faculty Handbook Committee. There is some controversy over identifying the categories of faculty. Should lecturers and non-tenure-track faculty be included in full faculty?

Colleen Harris stated that the largest problem is in Chapter 3 where the types of faculty are defined. The research and clinical folks can be assigned service duties, but lectures cannot. The general notion with the discussion is that it is possible to include clinical and research professors, but giving the vote to lecturers goes against what is stated in Chapter 3. Their responsibilities are fundamentally different. She asked that we filter out lecturers from the voting faculty. What is the difference between lecturers and instructors? The difference is defined in the handbook but it is not how people are hired and given a title. Oralia Preble-Niemi encouraged everyone to send her thoughts and comments on this issue.

http://www.utc.edu/FacultySenate/Archives/2000_2010Archives/2007_08/2007_08Attachments/040308HandbookChanges.pdf

7. Report from Executive Committee (Gavin Townsend)

a. BOT Representative Replacement Policy

Former Faculty Senate presidents at the four major campuses are eligible to serve on the Board of Trustees. The first year, the president serves as a non-voting member and the second year, the president serves as a voting member. But, if the president is unable to serve, there is no provision to deal with the situation. Helen Eigenberg asked for a process so that the members have time to think about a vote, instead of doing this “off the cuff”.

Richard Rice stated that there is at least one faculty member on the board, which is not something that all educational governing boards have. Gavin Townsend asked the Senate if it would like to take this up at the next meeting, April 17. Lyn Miles has expressed an interest. Helen Eigenberg moved that a Senate-wide call for nominations be made and that the Senate vote at the next meeting. This was seconded by Colleen Harris. **It passed by voice vote.**

8. Administrative Reports

Provost Oldham stated the search for the Dean of Engineering and Computer Science is about half-way complete. Candidates are visiting campus. Also there are two other searches: associate provost for academic affairs and associate provost for research and engagement.

Richard Rice asked about a possible change in phased retirement. Provost Oldham stated that he spoke with the Deans about this issue; \$300,000 is tied up in phased retirement. This ties up money and the department cannot hire during this time because there are not any funds to hire a new faculty member. He also stated that the insurance benefit is the aspect of phased-retirement that faculty prefer. There could possibly be another way to address the issue.

John Delaney stated there is \$16.3M of student fees in the campus recreation project. There is a project on tap to convert the space on the 3rd floor of the UC (old organization space) to a women's center and multi-cultural center. The game room will possibly become a location for student organizations. Richard Rice stated that as the campus becomes more residential it might not be a bad idea to meet students outside of the classroom and the recreational center might be a good location.

Diane Halstead is on the campus recreation committee and she stated that the students feel very protective of the new facility. There is no money budgeted for the upkeep and maintenance on the facility.

Theresa Liedtka asked if alumni would have access. Diane Halstead stated that this is being explored.

9. Other Business: NONE

10. Faculty Concerns:

There is a faculty concern about the lack of classrooms for the fall and how classroom space was assigned. Economics suffered a particular case where classes were assigned different times and split into sections without the approval of the department head. There is a request that a systematic policy for room assignments be developed. Oralia Prebl-Niemi stated that this was not the case in all departments. Provost Oldham stated that he would look into the issue

11. Announcements: NONE

12. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Gretchen Potts
Faculty Senate Secretary
April 3, 2008**