

2008 – 2009 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Signal Mountain Room, University Center, 3:10 p.m.
Sept 18, 2008

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

<u>Division</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
President	Pedro Campa	
Past-President	Gavin Townsend	
At-Large	Mike Bell, Tammy Garland, Claire McCullough, Chris Stuart, and Jim Tucker	Linda Hill
Adjunct		
Behavioral Sciences	Helen Eigenberg, and Nick Honerkamp	Tom Buchanan Terri LeMoyne
Business Adm.	Beverly Brockman, Jim Henley, and Kathleen Wheatley	
Eng & Comp Sci		Ron Goulet, Michel Holder, Frank Jones and Li Yang
Fine Arts	Stuart Benkert, Patrick Sweetman, and Kenyon Wilson	
CHEPS	Linda Johnston, Elizabeth O'Brien, and Cheryl Robinson	Kay Lindgren, Deborah McAllister, and Dana Wertenberger
Humanities	Ralph Covino, Vicki Steinberg, and Lynn Purkey	Lauren Ingraham
Library	Colleen Harris	
Math & Sciences	Hill Craddock, Doug Kutz and Irene Loomis	
Ex-Officio	Roger Brown, Phil Oldham, and John Delaney	Richard Brown, Theresa Liedtka, and Jocelyn Sanders
SGA Liaison		

Among the guests present: Linda Orth, Andy Novobilski, Chuck Cantrell, Anthony Steinhoff, Karen Adist

Summary:

1. Call to Order at 3:10 P.M.
2. Approval of the minutes of September 4, 2008. The following corrections were made to the minutes: Linda Hill should be added to the Committee on Committees. Dr. Loomis moved to approve. Dr. Honerkamp seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.
3. Parliamentary Procedures. Dr. Covino, the Parliamentarian spoke regarding parliamentary procedure. He noted that he would provide a power point presentation on parliamentary procedure to be posted on the Senate website, and that he would not make rulings, but rather advise Dr. Campa on procedures for meetings.
4. Report from the Executive Committee. Dr. Campa had nothing to report.
5. Broadband Usage, Banner. Luis León discussed the problems that the university has been experiencing in relation to the shortage of bandwidth. Since 2006, the university has been working on this issue. From 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 A.M., the bandwidth at UTC is working at maximum capacity due to a paradigm shift in teaching and culture in general. Videos such as Youtube are extremely expensive in regards to bandwidth. IT had tried to correct the problem, but there was an issue with the equipment,

which was not successful, because the two systems bought different pieces of equipment. They made an emergency purchase to correct the situation. The necessary part has been ordered, but is not in stock. Congressman Wamp helped with obtaining materials. The problem is not with blackboard, which is on this campus. The issue is the bottleneck with which we connect to the world beyond campus.

Dr. Townsend asked if it would be possible to control or redirect the signal, for example by reducing internet usage in the dorms during class time.

Dr. León said that, while that was possible, the gatekeeper did not have a sufficiently sophisticated filter, to determine if something is for instructional or personal use. One might try to limit, not block, bandwidth used by dorms, but such a measure would be insignificant in the face of the shortage.

Dr. Novobilsky questioned the adequacy of increasing the system by the planned 50 megabites and if that would be sufficient for UTC's needs. Dr. Novobisky noted that students pay fees in order to have internet access. He also asked if there is a plan in place to address future campus needs.

Dr. León stated that he could make a future forecast regarding campus needs.

Dr. Novobilsky objected to this, and stated that UTC needs to examine the numbers in order to predict future usage.

Dr. León explained that we are not paying for this bandwidth usage, but that the demand is massive.

Professor Harris pointed out the issues that students are having with library data bases.

Dr. León remarked that the campus does not have the infrastructure and equipment, to check everything.

Dr. Tucker commented that we should consider this issue, while we are paying millions of dollars to build a new library.

Dr. León said that he would try to get an estimate of future costs.

6. General Education Assessment Plan – Dr. Steinhoff.

Dr. Steinhoff, the chair of the General Education Committee, briefed the faculty senate on the committee's plan for collecting information for assessing general education, which is a SACS requirement.

Dr. Townsend asked what type of work sample the committee would look at.

Dr. Steinhoff replied that faculty would be given a preliminary rubric that they are using to evaluate student artifacts.

Dr. Townsend would like to see the rubrics prior to their use, and for Dr. Steinhoff to explain how the three person team would evaluate the work.

According to Dr. Steinhoff, the rubrics are basically set, and are in the report which his committee filed last year.

Dr. Townsend expressed a concern regarding student papers being returned to professors in a timely fashion, the amount of paperwork this would cause, and students' rights to their intellectual property.

Dr. Adsit stated that the papers would be copied and returned to professors in a timely manner.

Dr. Steinhoff stated that some work would be handled electronically. He also mentioned that grading criteria and other data regarding this process was in the report submitted at the end of the last academic year.

Dr. Stuart questioned the ability of professors to evaluate papers that were outside of their expertise.

Dr. Steinberg noted that since these are General Education Requirements, the average faculty member should be able to evaluate the work.

Dr. Stuart asked if a sample is supposed to be a sample of a whole class.

Dr. Steinhoff replied that it was, for example, one course out of six sections of chemistry.

Dr. Stuart remarked that the issue had not been clearly defined when department heads were told to gather artifacts.

Dr. Campa stated it appeared that many had not read the committee's report, and that he requested that we allow the committee to follow through with their plans for one year and then reassess the situation.

Dr. Steinberg moved to give the committee carte blanche for one year to pursue their plans to evaluate general education.

Dr. McCullough seconded the motion.

Dr. Townsend urged the senate to decline the motion. Instead he asked the senate to first see what the CAAP exam will yield in terms of general education information and student competencies. UTC already administers the exam, and could use it as a tool for student assessment.

Dr. Adist stated that UTC already has some data from the CAAP, which she could forward, but that it was "discouraging." She further mentioned that tests are at times imperfect.

Dr. Craddock noted that both options were not mutually exclusive, and proposed that we use both the exam and the collection of student artifacts to assess student performance.

Dr. Steinhoff concurred with Dr. Adist's point that tests can be imperfect, and that some general education subjects have no test.

Dr. Campa noted that the Senate can ask for periodic progress reports.

The motion carried by acclamation (one vote against).

7. Administrative Reports

Chancellor Brown thanked the faculty for coming to the convocation, and for their feedback, stating that the campus was off to good start of the academic year.

Provost Oldham reported some of the highlights of his news letter, which can be found at:
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/AcademicAffairs/documents/ProvostsPageNewsletterSeptember.pdf>

In particular he mentioned the appointments of Drs. Joselyn Sanders, Fran Bender, Andy Novobilski, and Stephanie Bellar to the respective positions of Associate Provost, Assistant Provost for Student Retention and Success, Assistant Provost for Research and Engagement, and Interim Dean of the Graduate School. He also noted that we were two years away from our next SACS reaffirmation process and that Dr. Karen Adsit would chair the SACS self-study in preparation for that process. Dr. Oldham also mentioned that the university was in the process of reevaluating our peer group, and had selected three peer institutions, which more closely represented UTC. They are preparing to appeal this issue with Nashville and wish to substitute Morgan State, Florida A &M, and North Carolina A&T, for Old Dominion, UNC Charlotte, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, which are all urban, metropolitan, universities with graduate programs. Most of these institutions are larger than UTC, but overall the make up of their programs is similar to that of UTC. Average faculty salaries are slightly higher, but the most compelling argument for shifting peer groups regards the financial funding, not salaries.

7. Other Business

The question of the adjunct representative was raised, and Dr. Purkey stated that the process of electing a representative had begun.

8. Faculty Concerns. There were no faculty concerns.

9. Announcements

Dr. John Delaney, the Vice Chancellor for Student Development, announced that UTC would be celebrating homecoming that week, and provided senate members with homecoming t-shirts.

10. Adjournment. Dr. Loomis moved that the meeting be adjourned and Dr. Covino seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation and the meeting was adjured at 5:15.