

Report from the meeting of the UT Council October 8, 2009

We had an informative and profitable meeting, Dr. Milles, Dr. Prevost and Dr. Campa were at the meeting representing UTC.

The new IT person for the system, Scott Studham did a presentation about the IT reorganization for the system and the priorities for all the UT campuses. Our IT team at UTC was praised for its hard work on the preliminary implementation of Banner. The IT Roadmap report is available in the UT Council website(**The IT Roadmap Document:** http://web.utk.edu/~utfc/docs/reports/oit-report_0720_v2.pdf)

The question of officially accepting the State's articulation agreement that requires all State institutions to accept "completed Gen Ed requirements" from other institutions in the State was discussed. It seems that UTC is already in compliance with "the spirit" of the articulation agreement. Although we might need to reword the existing language of the handbook to be in compliance. (Dr. Steinberg from the Gen Ed may have something for us today on this)

President Simek attended the Council meeting and answered questions from the members. There are plans to move the UT System headquarters out of the UTK campus to a facility in the city of Knoxville. The question was asked about having more campus independence from the UTSystem rules, and most importantly allowing UT chancellors to be advocates for their institutions with the State legislature. Dr. Simek responded that some of these things are being implemented and he seems to agree with these initiatives.

There was discussion of the Diversity Plan for the UT System. Theotis Robinson and Alice Woody explained the settlement of the Geier Decree and there was a discussion about the initiatives and goals for advancing faculty and student diversity in the UT campuses. We will hear more of this soon, when we schedule a presentation on Diversity goals and initiatives on our campus. About the Geier Consent Decree and the TBR System: <http://www.tbr.state.tn.us/offices/accessanddiversity.aspx?id=268&terms=geier+consent+decree>
Bredeesen announces Geier Settlement from the TSU website: <http://www.tnstate.edu/interior.asp?mid=4261>

The ambiguous language describing the term of service for campus representatives to the UT Council was clarified by a unanimous vote of the Council. The new language reads:

Campus Representatives One representative from the full-time tenured faculty of each campus with each representative serving a term of three years. Representatives may be elected to serve a second consecutive term. No such campus representative may serve more than two consecutive terms. A Senate President who is completing a term of office may be elected by their campus for a 3 year term. The manner of election of these campus representatives shall be determined by each campus and should be addressed in their Faculty Senate bylaws.

Respectfully submitted, Pedro F. Campa, UTC Faculty Senate President