

**2009-2010 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Signal Mountain Room, University Center
November 5, 2009**

The minutes can also be found at <http://www.utc.edu/FacultySenate/minutes.php>
Senate meetings are open meetings to which all interested parties are welcome.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
President	Pedro Campa	
Past-President	Gavin Townsend	
At-Large	Jennifer Beech, Rebecca Bromley, Clair McCullough, and Jim Tucker	Mike Bell, Rebecca Elliot
Lecturer	Andrea Becksvoort	
Adjunct		
Behavioral Sciences	Barbara Medley	Lorraine Evans, Nick Honerkamp
Business Adm.	Jim Henley, Greg Thibadoux	Keith Richards
Eng & Comp Sci		Ron Goulet, Frank Jones, Li Yang
Fine Arts	Ron Ulen	Stuart Benkert, Kenyon Wilson
CHEPS	Deborah McAllister, M.A. McCoy, D. R. Meece, and Cheryl Robinson	Kay Lindgren, Elizabeth O'Brien
Humanities	Ralph Covino, Lynn Purkey, and Vicki Steinberg	
Library	Beverly Simmons	
Math & Sciences	Hill Craddock, Irene Loomis, Lucas Vandermerwe	
Ex-Officio	Phil Oldham, Jocelyn Sanders	John Delaney, Roger Brown, Theresa Liedtka, Richard Brown
SGA Liaison		

Among the guests present: Karen Adsit, Linda Johnston, Terry Denniston and Chuck Cantrell.

Dr. Campa called the meeting together at 3:20 p.m.

The minutes of the October 15 meeting were approved. (Covino/Loomis)

QEP

Dr. Adsit reported on the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP). There will be two more QEP sessions: November 10 at noon in the Heritage Room (University Center) and November 20 at 9:00 AM in the Heritage Room. Two faculty have been added to the QEP Committee. We have a draft of a QEP logo (shown on the screen during the Senate meeting). We have implemented TaskStream to track institutional effectiveness. Student outcomes are entered into TaskStream and integrated with the Strategic Plan. Reviewers are being trained to review what has been put into TaskStream. The reviewing process for 2008-09 starts November 15. If your area hasn't done this, you need to do it, and then you will get recommendations about how you can improve your program. To find out about QEP and the TaskStream process, go to the Walker Teaching Center Site.

Dr. McCullough requested that the "mean Scrappy" icon be put on the new QEP logo.

TUFS

Dr. Campa reported on TUFS (Tennessee University Faculty Senates). The idea of merging university systems in Tennessee seems to be dead. The president of TUFS said that a consulting firm has been hired to look at articulation for community colleges and four-year

institutions in Tennessee in areas such as shared library and technology resources, joint international education programs, faculty exchanges, and other areas. The THEC review of low-producing programs concerns UTK faculty because the single criterion for a low-producing program—graduation rates—is too crude to identify problem programs, discriminates against programs that teach a lot of service courses, identifies first majors and but not second majors, and the information is often erroneous.

Dr. Townsend commented that the rationale for merging systems for economic reasons was to consolidate administrations and that nothing in the TUFSS recommendations about sharing resources addressed administrative issues.

Proposal to integrate the Faculty Research and Faculty Development Committees.

Dr. Adsit informed the Senate that the old Instructional Excellence (now defunct) was a administrative committee begun by Provost Sandra Packard in the 1980s with the mission of improving teaching that was funded through a UC foundation grant. The other two committees that fund faculty development—the Faculty Research Committee and the Faculty Development Committee—are Faculty Senate Committees.

As the UC Foundation has changed, it has combined funding for the big picture of faculty development which includes developing faculty as teachers, researchers, within their service roles and as people. Thus, the UC Foundation combined the pots for Faculty Research, Instructional Excellence, and Faculty Development into one account which is juggled and divided up. The chairs of these committees got together and formed an ad hoc supercommittee to discuss what allocations would be made to each area. The committees first depleted their separate accounts and then gave grants out of the big account and submitted a single report to the UC Foundation. The vision now is to create a more flexible, responsive group to fund travel, research, teaching, etc. with one form for everything. The goal is streamlining and flexibility; if we don't get enough research requests, we can allocate more money for teaching and travel, roll unused funds over to the next year, etc. Can the Senate find a way to do this?

Dr. Loomis asked how much money is allocated now to each fund. There is a total of \$120,000 with \$60,000 allocated for faculty development, \$30,000 for faculty research, and \$30,000 for summer fellowships.

Dr. Becksvoort noted that lecturers can't get faculty development grants unless there are funds left over after tenure-line and tenured faculty applications have been funded. Her concern is that if leftover monies roll over to the next year, lecturers will never be able to get this funding. Dr. Adsit said that if funding is done in rounds, and if we combine the funds into one pot, there is a possibility to develop some funding programs special uses, such as funding for lecturers, junior faculty, etc.

Dr. McCullough said that she has served on these committees and one big committee will have too many proposals to evaluate. Dr. Adsit replied that more rounds with separate application dates could be added with separate subcommittees assigned to specific rounds, cutting down on the total number of applications each committee member needs to read.

Dr. McCullough asked about instructional excellence. Do we just not care about that any more?

Motion: That the Handbook Committee be charged with developing language that would combine the functions of the Faculty Research Committee, the Faculty Development Committee and the Instructional Excellence Committee into one committee. (Townsend/Medley)

Dr. Campa asked if this committee would have subcommittees because of the amount of the proposals that would be generated.

Dr. Adsit suggested that the Handbook be flexible enough to allow the committee to do what it needs to do each year so that we're not constantly tweaking the Handbook.

Dr. Purkey commented that it's important that we stipulate that different disciplines be represented on the committee.

Dr. Covino called the question

The motion passed on voice vote with one nay and no abstentions.

Provost's Report

Faculty development and faculty research, summer fellowships, and sabbaticals are funded out of the UC Foundation Endowment: \$100,000 million with \$30-\$35 million, or one-third, in unrestricted funds. Annually \$100,000 in faculty development funds comes out of the UC Foundation and \$20,000 comes out of the Tennessee Tomorrow fund. The unrestricted UC Foundation funds earn about 4 and a half percent interest a year of spendable income. The amount fluctuates from year to year. This year's amount does not currently reflect the market's downturn. This year we will spend about \$1.8 million in unrestricted funds; next year we will be down about \$100,000 from that.

The UC Foundation's two main issues are strategic impact and accountability.

Dr. Townsend noted that the cost of travel isn't going down. What is the prospect of securing more than \$120,000 in annual faculty development funds?

Dr. Oldham said that it would be possible, but we would have to make a case that it's strategic and document it.

Dr. Covino wondered that with the lawsuit and the scholarships outlay, would there be much money for the supercommittee to give out?

Dr. Oldham said that he was exactly right, but that we may have some stimulus funds.

Dr. Craddock: asked if it were fair to take a half million dollars out of our \$1.8 million in faculty development funds to defend a lawsuit.

Dr. Oldham said that it wasn't, at bottom, faculty money; it was UC Foundation money, that fiduciary responsibility rests with the Foundation.

The Provost also discussed the review process on academic programs that are indicated by THEC as low-producing. This process is being managed by a committee chaired by Jocelyn Sanders. Multiple conversations with the Deans Council prior to the first committee meeting were held. Everyone agrees that the THEC criteria are too limited and are not intended to be a definitive statement on what should be done with these programs. There is no upfront predisposition to eliminate programs without sufficient review. What you are likely to find in this process is a lot of positive recommendations about how to get these programs off the THEC list. For those programs for which this is unlikely but that are crucial to the mission of the University, we will document that need. The committee will look a lot of factors, not just graduate rates but credit-hour production, scholarship production, need for the program on a statewide and local basis. There are 15 UTC programs on this year's THEC list.

Dr. Noe noted that there was protracted discussion in the Arts and Sciences department head's meeting yesterday about the committee's failure to talk to any department heads before initiating their process.

Dr. Sanders said that the process is a campus wide process and that the next step is for the committee to ask for input from various bodies, such as the Council of Academic Department Heads, Faculty Senate, etc. On Tuesday it was made clear at the committee meeting that conversations with department heads is where the committee will get a clear picture of the impact of the department on other programs.

Dr. Townsend asked if there was any response yet from departments.

Dr. Sanders replied that the departmental profiles are the starting point, as well as departmental reviews and program reviews.

Dr. Campa noted that we need a representative to Graduate Council from a department that has no graduate program, and asked that the Senate confirm Jonathan Mies of Physics, Astronomy, and Geology a new member of Graduate Council. He was so confirmed.

Announcements On November 24 the Chancellor's holiday open house will be held for the entire campus from 3:00-6:00, and they need faculty volunteers to provide entertainment. The Chancellor's open house for the Faculty Senate will be December 1 at the from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn. (Craddock).

Recorded by Marcia Noe