

Faculty Senate Minutes

Signal Mountain Room, University Center, 3:10 p.m.

15 September 2011

<u>Division</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
President	Victoria Steinberg	
Past-President		Pedro Campa
At Large	Susan North, Colleen Harris, Mike Bell, Shela Van Ness, Lyn Miles	Richard Metzger
Lecturer	Andrea Becksvort	
Adjunct	TBD	
Behavioral Sciences	Zibin Guo	
Business Adm.	Lisa Burke	Marsha Scheidt,
Eng & Comp Sci	Jim Hiestand, Claire McCullough	Mbakisya Onyango
Fine Arts	Gaye Jeffers, Kenyon Wilson	
CHEPS	Kay Cowan, Barry Dale, Jamie Harvey, Deborah McAllister, David Rausch	
Humanities	Ralph Covino, Heather Palmer, Verbie Prevost	
Library	Beverly Kutz	
Math & Sciences	Sumith Gunasekera, John "Matt" Matthew, Hill Craddock	
Ex-Officio	Phil Oldham, Jocelyn Sanders, Richard Brown, Theresa Liedtka, Roger Brown	John Delaney
SGA Liaison		

Also present were: India Lane, Karen Adsit, Bryan Samuels, Fran Bender, Dianne Cox, Anthony Dooley

Meeting highlights:

- The ad-hoc Calendar Committee slate and charge were unanimously approved by Senate members. The committee membership includes Dr. Jim Hiestand (Chair), Dr. Matthew Guy, Dr. Betty McNulty, and Prof. Cindy White
- The body voted to empanel an ad-hoc committee on best practices relating to class size and impact of class size, per the discussion of the TUFs request to address the issue at the

1 September meeting. The committee membership includes Dr. David Rausch (chair), Dr. Mohammed Ahamdi, Dr. Neslihan Alp, and Dr. Chris Stuart.

- The body decided to invite Tom Griscom to Senate to talk about the UC Foundation and recent changes
- The body voted to empanel an ad-hoc committee to look at academic calendar scheduling and its impact on instruction time and various university processes impacting students
- During Member Concerns, the President was asked to express concern to appropriate parties involved in scheduling campus events about the noise factor when events are scheduled close to academic buildings where exams and other academic business is in progress.
- During member Concerns, the President was asked to express concern over the parking plan presented to the Senate at the 1 September meeting.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 3:20pm by President Dr. Victoria Steinberg.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Dr. Ralph Covino moved that to approve the minutes of 1 September 2011, Deborah McAllister seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. **Brief Administrative Report - Chancellor Roger Brown**

Chancellor Brown thanked the faculty for continued well-wishes for himself and Carolyn. He noted that the Convocation speaker, Dr. Horace Traylor, was excellent and moving. The Chancellor noted that budgetary planning was in flux, and that we have heard to expect and plan for a 5% budget cut, though we are fighting to not have to make such cuts. UTC is caught in a place where we are forced to tell students that they are the only place we can make up the money gap when state appropriations are reduced. UTC is still a bargain; we are not at the top of the tuition curve in our peer set, but we need to remain cognizant that at a certain price point, students will not be able to afford to attend. We need to work hard to find money elsewhere.

Old Business

4. **Discussion of Honors College – Provost Phil Oldham**

The Provost noted that enrollment is up 6%, a 30% increase over the last 6 years, and that this increase in enrollment is responsible for why we are not suffering more financially. What he did not mention during the full faculty meeting is that we are learning more about our student body of more than 2000 freshmen – at orientation, they were asked why they chose UTC. The answer by a wide margin was academic reasons, location was a distance second reason for their choice. The responses of cost, housing, and others were very far down the list. Our retention rate continues to climb (we were 3 students short of a 70% retention rate; a ten percentage point

increase over three years). Our average ACT is 22.9, a composite record high, and two full points higher than less than ten years ago. The high school GPA average is 3.36, another UTC record high, and the number one correlate to college success at UTC.

Dr. Lisa Burke asked if we are publishing graduation rates. The Provost replied that we publish the 6 year graduation rate. The graduation rate for a 6-year freshman cohort is 5% of the new funding formula, that actual number of graduates is closer to 30% of the formula. This year our year graduation cohort was at 40% and not where it needs to be, though it is comparable to peers in Tennessee; UTK's is a little over 60%. We should be north of 50%.

Dr. Lyn Miles asked that since historically and geographically UTC has been a feeder school to UTK where our students finish, if that is taken into account. Provost Oldham stated that THEC tracks student migration across schools, and we don't actually see that 'feeder' dynamic; it is more of a revolving door between here, Knoxville, and Murfreesboro.

The Provost stated that a proposal is soon to be brought before the Board of Trustees about the creation of a university Honors College, an expansion of the current honors program which is to remain intact and a platform to create parallel programs. The Honors College would allow for the creation of thematic and interdisciplinary programs to provide educational enhancement and a competitive advantage for students when applying to graduate school or the job market. The creation of the Honors College is intended to allow for flexible, edgy, cutting edge programs, not to recreate other honors colleges at other institutions. The current themes suggested represent timely subjects relevant for today, but could easily change in the future. We could scale themes up or down depending on need and relevance. Curriculum development would go through the regular approval channels including the curriculum committee.

The Provost stated that it has not been a public discussion to date because of the fundraising initiative; the intent is to not have the Honors College fall completely on the operating budget, we want donors to see this as an enhancement. To date \$7 million has been raised to establish the college. Every honors program developed has naming opportunities for the college, programs, and scholarships. It would be led by a dean because as an academic enterprise, it needs the same weight as other academic programs and because multiple programs would need monitoring to ensure good function. The exact structure of how faculty would be assigned is yet to be determined. It is intended to be flexible. The Honors College would also have an attached function to mentor students for national scholarships such as Truman, Fulbright, etc.

Dr. David Rausch asked how an exclusive Honors College would fit with the University's stated mission of urban and metropolitan engagement. Provost Oldham stated he did not see the two as mutually exclusive, and that we have students across the spectrum. As part of a land grant institution, we have a role to play to offer educational opportunity, but it doesn't stop with getting students here for a degree, we need to give them the best possible experience, not play to minimum standards.

Dr. Susan North noted that UTC already has a resource problem, and asked how the Honors College would contribute. Provost Oldham noted that one prospective donor may be interested in giving a significant gift dedicated to library resources to help support the College. Dr. North

asked if this would be a trickle-down effect. Provost Oldham replied that what we do affects the rest of campus in a positive way. The current Honors program is outstanding but only serves 150 students, which means the impact on the rest of the university is fairly marginal. Growing the honors program to 5-10% of the student population would have a more noticeable impact.

Dr. Ralph Covino asked for an explicit answer to the question of whether the existing UHON model would be applied to the new structures; if so, there is concern that there would be no faculty left to teach general education courses to the regular students. Provost Oldham replied that the curriculum is yet to be developed, and nothing says we are limited to the current model. The programs will need some degree of autonomy but will need to coordinate and find balance. The first step is to get approval from the Board of Trustees.

There was discussion of placing additional commentary online through a Blackboard discussion group and an online voting mechanism which will be revisited once the list of full faculty is updated and made available.

Those needing to dress for the Gala were dismissed. Before leaving, Vice Chancellor Richard Brown noted that UTC balanced in the black, and will be working with Dr. Gavin Townsend and the Budget 7 Economic Status Committee. Vice Chancellor Brown noted that the implementation of the new library fee would generate \$537,000 in recurring annual revenue for library materials. Library Dean Theresa Liedtka clarified that that materials budget last year was \$350,000 in the red, so this fee does not mean an actual net gain of \$537,000 new dollars to spend. President Victoria Steinberg noted that this year's actual funding of the Faculty Senate means that the Senate can actually fund the course releases called for in the faculty handbook.

5. Committee on Committees – Dr. Deborah McAllister

At the last meeting, the Senate discussed and approved the formation of an ad hoc calendar committee. The committee has been populated as follows: Dr. Jim Hiestand (Chair), Dr. Matthew Guy, Dr. Betty McNulty, and Dr. Cindy White. The committee was given a fourfold mandate:

- Gather calendar constraints (invite Diane Cox, Financial Aid; Vanessa Parks, Bursar's Office; and Yancy Freeman).
- Consider changing/creating deadlines for petitions and other "constraints."
- Entertain new calendar proposals given the constraints.
- Investigate and settle a calendar change process.

The committee will report back to Faculty Senate ASAP or by March.

Dr. McAllister requested Senate confirmation of the slate and the committee mandate. Dr. Jim Hiestand noted that as chair he would like to reserve the right to add more committee members as necessary and appropriate; President Victoria Steinberg agreed and stated that flexibility was needed. The committee slate and charge were approved by all members by voice vote.

6. UT Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Deborah McAllister

Dr. Deborah McAllister attended in the place of Dr. Victoria Steinberg, Dr. Lyn Miles also attended. There were no questions from the body about the report submitted.

7. Postponed TUFs Action Item – Dr. Victoria Steinberg

The body voted to empanel an ad-hoc committee on best practices relating impact of class size on learning, per the discussion of the TUFs request to address the issue at the 1 September meeting. Dr. Lyn Miles moved that we establish the ad-hoc committee; Dr. Deborah McAllister seconded the motion. Dr. Ralph Covino asked if there was a timeline for reporting back to TUFs, Drs. Lyn Miles and Victoria Steinberg reported that TUFs would like the information immediately. Dr. Gavin Townsend asked if the committee should include Dick Gruetzmacher as an ex-officio member; Dr. Victoria Steinberg stated that the committee would certainly use administration as sourcing for data, but does not require them as an ad hoc member, and will provide a copy of the report to administration. The deadline was noted as March, if not sooner, for the committee's report. The committee membership includes Dr. David Rausch (chair), Dr. Mohammed Ahamdi, Dr. Neslihan Alp, and Dr. Chris Stuart. The creation, slating, and mandate of the committee were unanimously approved by voice vote of the body.

New Business

8. Honoring the 125th Anniversary – Dr. Victoria Steinberg

President Steinberg took a moment to honor the 125th anniversary of the institution now known as the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

9. UT Office of Academic Affairs & Student Success - India Lane

Dr. India Lane from UT System office of Academic Affairs & Student Success noted that the office is largely a liaison and somewhat a compliance office whose job is not to dictate or create work but facilitate campus work, communicate, and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations such as the Complete College Act. The office assists with University Faculty Councils and Senates. She recommended members see the Tennessee.edu website for resources for faculty and administration, and information on how new programs and policies are developed and approved. In particular, the office provides staff support to the Board of Trustees, interacts with THEC for reporting and findings, watches the legislature, and pulls together data as needed. The office deals with reporting to accrediting agencies, advises the president's policy and decision-making, and does much of the groundwork before Trustees or legislative meetings. The office identifies faculty who may be helpful for grants by contacting chief academic officers. Recent issues have included a new director of institutional research, lottery issues, and system library issues and concerns. On the horizon is looking at the UT press which publishes in niche areas, library cost savings and sharing, and the faculty handbook retreat. The office facilitates by learning best practices and identifying common challenges and needs.

Dr. Ralph Covino asked if it might be better to open grant support to the full faculty rather than relying on the Provost's office to know who may best suit. Dr. Lane said she agreed on the face of the statement, but because of privacy concerns, current protocol is to contact the chief academic officer at campuses.

10. Budget & Economic Status Committee Report

Dr. Gavin Townsend invited members to contact the committee with any issues to bring up with the Vice Chancellor. President Steinberg asked about the UC Foundation rearrangement, and whether that funding directly to faculty research and classrooms has shifted; Dr. Townsend confirmed that there will be no more direct faculty contact with the Foundation. Dr. Steinberg asked if there were any means to compete for Foundation funding, Dr. Townsend replied that no, and when he was asked about how faculty might weigh in on decision-making, the provost did not encourage such involvement. The Foundation has changed its mission statement, but Dr. Townsend had not yet seen it; apparently all Foundation funding will go through the Provost. Dr. Lyn Miles recommended the Senate ask Tom Griscom to the Senate to talk about the future of the Foundation. Dr. Verbie Prevost noted that in the past, there were conversations expressing concern that Foundation funds were having little impact, which may have been the source of the decision to approach funding differently.

Dr. Susan North asked Dr. Townsend about credit hour generation, noting that 60% FTE of hours is complicated by adjuncts; Prof. Colleen Harris noted that in the previous Senate meeting, the provost noted that the 60% was not a credit-generation number but a breakdown of full time employees (not full time enrollment FTE).

Dr. Lisa Burke asked how much money colleges would have to come up with to support the Honors College in terms of percent; Dr. Townsend noted that the Provost likely does not know yet. President Steinberg noted that the provost stated the money would not be going to new faculty lines, and that she has asked the provost for a matrix detailing how we would know if new lines were needed. Dr. Verbie Prevost stated that we already need to teach those students, whether they are in the Honors College or in the general student population. Dr. Shela Van Ness noted that we would still be adding directors, deans, and other administrators. Dr. Ralph Covino stated that as we are on the race to 15,000 students, there is intent to assign a development officer to each college, and an Honors College development officer would also likely be tasked with generating funds. President Victoria Steinberg stated that there are concerns not just about the numerical costs and benefits but how we will account for externalities. She encouraged members to contact Dr. Townsend directly with questions and concerns.

The Budget & Economic Status Committee report was accepted through its presentation to the Senate; President Steinberg commended Dr. Gavin Townsend for coming to the body in a timely manner so that members do not have to absorb and discuss all reports in April. She encouraged other committees to also bring their reports forward in a timely manner.

11. Financial Literacy – Anthony Doyley

Anthony Doyley spoke to the Senate about how a financial literacy program is now part of a federal mandate. Started about 1 ½ years ago at UTC, the program promotes the importance of budgeting and money management. The average student graduates with about \$27,000 in student loan debt, and 86% of students take out loans. Many default, which raises the institution default rate, creating problems with issuing financial aid. UTC's goal is to lower our students' default rates. We are currently at 8.4% default on the 2 year model; the system will be moving to a 3

year model of default which makes things more difficult. If students come to faculty for help, please send them to the financial aid office for budgeting and money management training so they can spend loan money wisely. The upcoming Living Like A Student campaign will be the second week of October, look for UTCInfo emails. In particular, students often feel they can withdraw from classes with no penalty, but they should be directed to the financial aid office so they understand the consequences of withdrawal for their HOPE scholarships and Pell grants. Please contact Anthony if he can be of service to you or your students.

12. Other Business

None.

13. Member Concerns

Dr. Ralph Covino expressed concerns about the parking presentation from the last Senate meeting, noting that the zoning solution does not solve problems for space close to buildings for faculty and staff who arrive later in the day. Moreover, the zoning model means that your lot would be random as opposed to in the same place, which is inconvenient. Dr. Shela Van Ness agreed, and added that she questioned whether freshmen need to come and be able to park on campus, and did not know of many places where employees had to pay for parking. Prof. Mike Bell stated that he was concerned about non-driving students who would be forced to subsidize parking through the fee when they would not be using the parking facilities. Dr. Covino asked if Senate could express a concern; President Steinberg said she would express the body's concern.

Dr. Ralph Covino also expressed concern about noisy events being scheduled in heritage Plaza when academic work such as exams were ongoing in adjacent academic buildings. He asked if we could express a concern through some central planning office. Dr. Deborah McAllister noted that use of outdoor space generally goes through Shannon Smith. President Steinberg agreed to express the concern.

14. Announcements

There were no announcements .

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.