

UTC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024

Presiding: Faculty Senate President Donald Reising

Minutes: Faculty Senate Secretary Hannah Wakefield

(attendance follows the minutes)

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Reising called the meeting to order at 3:10pm.
2. **Approval of the Minutes from the January 18, 2024, meeting**
Approved 34-0-0
3. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. **Preferred names in email system – Vice Chancellor Vicki Farnsworth**

Vice Chancellor Farnsworth explained that some students' preferred names are not appearing in the email system because they are or have been an employee. There are two separate processes for name changing in this instance: there's a banner process, and students who've been employees or are employees can go into IRIS and also change their name there. If students have been or are employees, the IRIS record will overwrite what banner puts into the outlook system. This will be fixed with the DASH project and the Student Information System. In the meantime, Jamie Walden pulled together the registrar and HR to work on making all of the information available and making it consistent. They are talking about different processes to get those fixed. VC Farnsworth explained that as students are being hired, there is a way to get preferred names into IRIS right away, so they will work on this. The goal is to address this concern so that students do not have to update their information multiple times.
 - b. **Building-specific training for active shooter situations – Dr. Donald Reising**

They are working with Associate Dean Brett Fuchs on walk-throughs. Faculty Senate volunteers are needed to walk through their buildings with Brett. President Reising said he will issue another call and asked Senators to email Faculty Senate Secretary Hannah Wakefield hannah-wakefield@utc.edu and cc President Reising if willing to volunteer.
 - c. **Faculty Departures – Dr. Donald Reising**

No new updates on this concern, President Reising is working on this.
 - d. **9-Month Sick Leave Policy- Dr. Donald Reising**

President Reising reported that this issue was discussed and feedback gathered during the Feb. 13 Full Faculty meeting. That meeting recording is posted to the Faculty Senate website under Full Faculty meetings. President Reising shared that faculty seem to be generally supportive of a sick leave policy, but with reservations about the specific policy proposed. Faculty are concerned about the potential loss of modified duties and the low rate of accrual of sick leave. The proposed policy states that 9-month faculty do not accrue sick leave over the summer, but some policies of peer institutions do allow faculty to accrue over the entire 12-month period. Dr. Reising will express these concerns at the next UFC meeting. He also pointed people back to the Canvas discussion boards on this

topic and encouraged representatives to email him with any feedback or questions.

4. New Business

a. Generative AI – Dr. Victoria Bryan

Dr. Bryan explained why the AI detection feature in TurnItIn is no longer available in Canvas. She shared that the tool was not a tool that the Walker Center initially chose to turn on, nor did they choose to turn it off. TurnItIn did not give partner schools the opportunity to demo this but turned it on for everyone, which is not a common practice. The Walker Center has reached out to TurnItIn to request meetings to discuss the feature, which has now been put behind a paywall, but they have received no response from TurnItIn. The Walker Center is not aware of the cost of the feature, nor have they been able to learn the process for turning it back on. No UT System school currently has access to the AI detection tool. Dr. Bryan also shared that Walker Center staff have been researching extensively about AI and pointed faculty toward the [Walker Center page on generative AI](#) for AI-related resources. This page contains a suggested process for what to do with suspected academic misconduct. The Walker Center is keeping an eye on detection software that is proving to be reliable. Copyleaks and GPT Zero are both free AI-detection services and are linked on the Walker Center website. Faculty should not input student-identifying information into this software. Faculty should also be aware that faculty use of AI in the classroom varies, so students may be confused about what is ethical AI use and not, so faculty should have conversations with students if they expect AI use in an assignment. If students are using AI to turn in something that is counter to the objectives of the course and counter to the honor code, it is grounds for investigation. The Walker Center offers AI-related workshops regularly and also is putting together some asynchronous material.

b. Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Safety and Chief of Police—Dr. Donald Reising

Search committee for this position has been formed and the committee is diverse in its composition, including faculty, staff, and students. The committee is in the process of evaluating the applicants using a rubric, and then they will look at everybody's scores and decide who will be brought in for Zoom interviews or phone interviews and then for in-person or campus interviews. There are a total of 22 applicants, all very qualified.

5. Committee Reports

a. Faculty Grants Committee—Dr. Donald Reising

The committee received 36 applications for the Spring 24 call for applications. Due to budget constraints, they fully funded 20 grants, and they partially funded one.

b. General Education Committee—Dr. Lee Harris

All the proposals that were submitted to the General Education committee both for recertification and for new certification have been approved. There's one proposal they're still looking at. Other proposals were sent back for revisions and resubmission, and they're working on a schedule for the recertification of the General Education 23 proposals. The committee is going to try to clarify the the

calendar for courses that are approved for Gen. Ed. 14 and maybe make that a little bit more clear on the website.

c. Course Learning Evaluation Committee—Dr. Donald Reising

Dr. Reising shared an update on behalf of Dr. Ethan Mills. The committee successfully did a test run of the University of Nebraska Omaha Impact Evaluation, and they're working on another test run for this semester.

d. Student Media Board—Dr. Jack Zibluk

Dr. Zibluk shared that the board's purpose is usually to help oversee who becomes the director of Mocs News or the editor of the Herald. One ongoing issue the committee has been working on is to update its handbook. Bylaws changes would have to go through the attorney's office. The Board would like to also reinforce the idea of independent student media; they do not censor anything in advance.

e. Faculty Awards Committee—Dr. Jamie Harvey

Each college is represented on the committee, and they have been meeting twice a month to get this organized. Matt Matthews has been collecting the committee's ideas. So far, they have created the descriptions for each award, and rubrics are still to be created. This is strictly a faculty committee, and the faculty committee will choose the award winners from those nominated by their peers across the several colleges. They researched faculty awards at peer institutions, and the results were varied. UTC has not had a faculty awards dinner since 2019, and the goal would be to revive this for Spring 2025. The committee determined that these awards so far would be awarded:

- Mentoring
- Service:
 - Lifetime (for a faculty member with 15 years or more at UTC)
 - Tenured/Tenure-Track
 - Non-Tenure-Track
- Teaching:
 - Lifetime
 - Tenured/Tenure-Track
 - Non-Tenure-Track
 - Adjunct
- Research/Creative Activity:
 - Lifetime
 - Tenured/Tenure-Track
 - Non-Tenure-Track

Vice Provost Lauren Ingraham asked a clarifying question about the status of the Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award, an award which has not historically come through colleges. Dr. Harvey explained that the committee has chosen not to revive this award but invited Dr. Ingraham to visit the committee and share insights about this award.

f. Handbook Committee – Dr. Julia Cummiskey

Dr. Cummiskey shared that the committee has been continuing to work on revisions to Chapter 3 in the Faculty Handbook related to retention, tenure, and promotion. The committee has been working from a robust Canvas discussion board earlier in this semester and using the feedback from those discussion boards

to narrow the focus to some specific information regarding recusals and abstentions and RTP committee votes as well as clarification about the inclusion of parental leave as a reason that one may choose but not be compelled to suspend a probationary period. The committee has drafted some proposed new language, and Jaclyn has been in conversation with university legal council about these changes. The suggested revisions are posted on the Full Faculty Canvas page for further discussion. The committee hopes to have revisions ready to present to the Faculty Senate for a vote at the March meeting. Dr. Reising clarified that this topic was also discussed at the Full Faculty meeting and that the discussion can be found in the meeting recording and meeting minutes. Dr. Reising also mentioned a separate issue to be discussed at a later point: that the Chancellor and the Provost have asked Faculty Senate to look into the possibility of requiring clarification for no votes in tenure and promotion cases. Dr. Cumiskey also requested that FS representatives encourage colleagues to participate in discussion boards in Canvas.

6. Administrative Reports

a. Chancellor Angle

Chancellor Angle shared that the Governor's budget was released last week. UTC has received funding for the Fletcher Hall, the only higher education capital project in the state that was recommended for funding by the Governor. The budget now goes to the General Assembly-- to the Senate and House Budget Committees. Chancellor Angle met with heads of both of those committees last week and believes the project is on a really good track. It won't be done until the General Assembly passes the budget, and the Governor signs it. Then there will be a firm commitment for the \$67.4 million. A donor has pledged to give \$30 million to match with the appropriation from the state to complete the funding for the project. The strategic plan committee has been named and will start meeting very shortly. The committee will provide opportunities for feedback both online and in person in the interest of transparency of the process. Chancellor Angle also welcomed Dr. Artanya Wesley, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Vice Chancellor Wesley started February 5th word, coming from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she was Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Dr. Wesley has a lot of experience and has been getting settled at UTC and involved in meetings, and Dr. Angle encouraged faculty to reach out to her and get to know her.

b. Provost Hale

Compliance Training- The Provost thanked faculty for completing compliance training and stressed the importance of training, particularly Title IX training. Over 1200 faculty and staff completed Title IX training. All but one full-time faculty and staff completed Title IX training, and there was 92% total compliance. Academic Affairs is collaborating with Finance and Administration to streamline the process of compliance training.

Academic Calendar Changes- President Boyd will be presenting his goals for the UT System to the Board of Trustees at the end of next week. One goal is to align academic calendars of all undergraduate campuses. Vice Provost Matt Matthews is representing UTC on a system-wide committee working on the academic

calendar. The UTC committee that was working on changes to the UTC academic calendar is now on hold because of these UT System developments. However, the Provost does plan to recommend to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors a five-minute increase in the passing periods between classes because of the expanding geographic area of the campus. The soonest this change could happen would be Spring 2025. UTC is also committed to working on aligning the calendar for fall and spring breaks with Hamilton County School breaks. This will be challenging because UTC builds out its calendar three years in advance as opposed to HCS, which builds out its calendar two years in advance. Additionally, the Hamilton County Schools calendars require employee and Board of Trustees votes, while UTC's do not.

Commencement Updates- The fire marshal has lifted restrictions for McKenzie Arena. Commencement set-up will now once again involve a middle aisle and two sets of rows, filling the entire arena floor, as well as a faculty processional and graduate processional. Dr. Charlene Simmons will be looking for more faculty volunteers for marshals than in the past several years. There will also be much more reserved seating for faculty than in the past several years. This spring faculty attendance at commencement will happen on a voluntary basis, but in the fall we will revert back to Provost Ainsworth's policy of requiring faculty attendance at one commencement ceremony per academic year.

Teaching Workload- Provost Hale distributed reports of current workload policies he gathered from the colleges and asked OPEIR to do a report to assess whether these policies were being adhered to in college teaching and workload assignments. He has received the report but not examined it closely yet. Provost Hale plans to hold a discussion of these reports in a number of forums, including Faculty Senate.

7. Faculty Concerns

a. R2 Exploration & Discussion – Dr. Reising

Faculty have contacted President Reising with concerns related to the impacts on faculty teaching. Concerns have largely centered on faculty being able to receive appropriate recognition for their teaching achievements and how the R2 designation might impact annual evaluation, promotion, and tenure. Vice Chancellor Reinhold Mann has expressed that this designation is a natural outgrowth of the direction the university is already headed. President Reising encouraged faculty to voice their concerns and needs during this process and suggested that faculty also send questions and concerns to Vice Chancellor Reinhold Mann. Chancellor Angle also spoke and clarified that there are two main criteria for the R2 designation: 1) amount of grant money (expenditures) and 2) number of PhDs. He also reinforced the idea that R2 is not a change of philosophy or direction but a continuation of where we're already headed. One question is how to work research mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students into the tenure and promotion processes. Link to Carnegie classification system:

<https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/carnegie-classification/classification-methodology/basic-classification/>

8. Announcements

- a. **UTC Spring Research and Arts Conference**
Wednesday, April 10; submission deadline is February 25. 300 students participated last year. Volunteers are needed. See the website for details.
 - b. **Quantum Conversations**
Quantum Conversations: Thursday, February 29, 4:30-6pm; James R. Mapp building
 - c. **Full Faculty Meetings**
 - i. Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 3:00 pm
- 9. Adjournment**
Jessica Taylor moves; Darrell Walsh seconds

ATTENDANCE

Last Name	2/15/24
Abrha	X
Baker	X
Bathi	X
Boyd	X
Bradley-Shoup	
Caskey	
Crawford	X
Davenport	X
DePrez	X
Einstein	X
Epperson	X
Evans	

Fleming	X
Franklin	X
Goulet	
Grubb	
Guinn	
Harbison	X
Harris	X
Harriss	
Heinrici	X
Hogg	X
Holcomb	
Huber	X
Ibrahim	
Jeffers	X
Kamrath	X
Kaplanoglu	X
Kozak	X
Laing	
Legg	X
Littleton	X
Ma	X
Manning-Berg	
McAllister	X
McDaniel	X
McDonnell	X
McElrone	X
McNutt	X
Medeiros	
Michael	X
Montgomery	X
Park	X
Parks	
Purkey	X

Reising	X
Strickland	
Strickler	X
Taylor	X
Treat	X
Usman	X
Van Buren	X
Vincent	X
Wakefield	X
Walsh	X
Xie	X
Zibluk	X