

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

FLETCHER HALL ROOM 100

Elected Members Present: Mike Bell, Stephanie Bellar, Susan Davidson, Joe Dumas, Marvin Ernst, Steve Eskildsen, Dawn Ford, David Garrison, Phil Giffin, Bill Harman, Jim Hiestand, Lori Hyers, Jason Kawall, Anne Lindsey, Deborah McAllister, Gail Meyer, Teresa Norris, Burch Oglesby, Joe Owino, Oralia Preble-Niemi, Cheryl Robinson, Valerie Rutledge, Judith Wakim, Randy Walker, Terry Walters, Barbara Walton

Elected Members Absent: Diane Halstead, Karen Henderson, Terri LeMoyné, Vance Lesseig, Robert Marlowe, Vickie Petzko, John Trimpey

Ex-Officio Members Present: Richard Brown, Sheila Delacroix, John Friedl, Bill Stacy

Among the Guests Present: Herb Burhenn, Linda Collins, Tom Ellis, Lanny Janeksela, Phil Kazemersky, John Schaerer, Monty Wilson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm. President Ernst welcomed the new members and returning members to the meeting at the start of this new academic year. Dr. Ernst reminded members to review the duties and responsibilities of Council members in the Faculty Handbook.

Approval of Minutes of April 18 & April 23, 2002:

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Introduction of Faculty Council Members:

Dr. Ernst introduced himself to the council and asked members and guests to do the same. He reminded members to sign in and to use the new name tags so members would be identified correctly for the purpose of the minutes.

Dr. Ernst told members that the Executive Committee would be meeting the week before the Council meeting in an attempt to get the agenda and materials out quicker to the members. The Executive Committee has compiled a list of 31 items that they hope the Council will be able to address this year. A new standing agenda item this year will be entitled Campus Concerns which will address a variety of issues. Dr. Ernst asked Council members to submit Campus Concerns to any of the officers for possible discussion in future meetings.

Professor Anne Lindsey asked if we are going to wear name tags in the future.

Dr. Ernst responded that we already had 2 items to discuss today but that might be a future topic to discuss.

Campus Concerns

Traffic Issues

Dr. Ernst opened the discussion on traffic by outlining what the 3 areas of concern were: McCallie Ave. becoming a 2 way street, the safety on 5th Street and the reopening of Vine Street to traffic.

Professor Joe Dumas began by discussing the 5th Street safety concerns with the bike path and construction.

Mr. Richard Brown responded by saying that he and Mr. Tom Ellis had met with the head of public works and the city traffic engineer this morning on a redesign about 5th Street. We have heard your concerns about the safety issues that were expressed. The bus lane is gone and is a dead issue and will not come back. Signs will be removed and raised crosswalks will be installed. Student access has also been moved. New signs will be put up as well as more of a security presence. Mr. Brown then mentioned the "hit or miss" issue of our students walking across McCallie Ave. Security is encouraging students to use the crosswalks. City police will be writing tickets to speeders, so slow down if you use that street.

Professor Mike Bell mentioned that the intersection at Palmetto & Oak is a two way stop that has a lot of pedestrian traffic. This is another potential hazard because not everybody stops.

Mr. Brown responded that he will ask the traffic engineer to look at that situation but he is afraid the response will be similar to the one given for Oak & Douglas St. in that it is too close to the intersection for McCallie Ave.

Professor Preble-Niemi mentioned that on 5th street there is a problem with the line being solid when in fact it should be dotted to indicate you can turn into the parking lot.

Professor William Harman expressed amazement that maintenance vehicles are traveling on the sidewalks and going way too fast as well as driving on cardiac hill.

Mr. Tom Ellis commented that they are not allowed to be on Baldwin; even if it is an emergency; call his office with the tag number if you see this.

Mr. Brown responded to the reopening of Vine St. The city fathers want it open because we are a part of the downtown and the city; we disagree with this; on weekends and special occasions they are asking us to open the street with UTC controlling the traffic. Does anyone see a problem with selected use?

Librarian Sheila Delacroix commented that it might be confusing to some trying to drive through at anytime in keeping track of when it is open and when it is not.

Mr. Brown did an informal poll of how many want Vine Street permanently closed?

The majority of council members raised their hands in response to keep it closed.

The discussion was now directed to the issue of 2 way traffic on McCallie Ave.

Professor Joe Dumas distributed a copy of the summary of the Chattanooga Engineers Club Task Force which is opposed to making this change. Professor Dumas would like the council to take a stand either for or against this change. This has become a controversial issue with the city council and the mayor backing the change with other groups voicing opposition. The mayor is quoted as saying that UTC is for this change, but are we really?

Dean Kazemsky commented that there is a website that has the complete report as well as other information about this issue. He will send the address to Dr. Ernst.

Professor Dumas mentioned the differences in cost that have been reported by the different groups. He also informed members that the 3rd St. bridge was going to be closed for 6 months for repairs and the traffic was going to be rerouted to McCallie and MLK. Many other concerns about this change were discussed.

Mr. Brown suggested that the council invite the Regional Planning Agency to make its presentation to this body and share the data they have collected in addressing this issue. We are also interested in this issue because we are partners in this community, both the downtown and the MLK community, and we are here to make an impact.

Professor Jim Hiestand commented that the issue is reducing the number of lanes on McCallie Ave. from 4 to 2 lanes. If we cut down the # of lanes we will increase congestion. The Engineers Club says not to do this because it isn't a good idea. In 1986 NASA administrators ignored their engineers on the Challenger issue and it exploded.

Dr. Ernst commented that we need to close the discussion at this time. Professor Joe Dumas requested to distribute a resolution for the council members to review and vote on at the next meeting. We need to take a stand on this important issue that affects all of us.

Dr. Ernst suggested that we study this and bring it back at the next meeting. Dr. Dumas commented that we are not saying don't do this; we are saying lets postpone it while the 3rd Street bridge is being repaired and to get more information about the differences between the studies. Mr. Brown again commented that he would like the council to consider inviting the regional planning commission and see the whole issue before making a decision.

Evaluation of the UT President's Performance

Dr. Ernst stated that the 2nd agenda item under Campus Concerns will be deferred on the UT Presidents performance criteria until the next meeting.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor Stacy

Yeah, we are open! We have as much money as we thought we would get; staffing is good; I am thrilled with John Friedl and his first 100 days. We need to focus on academic affairs' this year and look at how we function as a legislative body. I am asking academic affairs to look at a strategic plan this year for academics and also look at curricular matters. Review the processes we use and look at the best ways to implement our mission.

Provost Friedl

Thanks to Dr. Stacy for his support. I feel I have hit the ground running since May particularly with John Trimpeys help. There is not a lot to fix as a result of his work; as well as Dan Quarles. A few quick comments on some major issues is the developing of an academic strategic plan. We will be contacting you to serve on ad hoc committees or for input. We want to circulate the document to faculty by spring semester. Another thing we'd like to do is look at instructional technology and get a handle on what we have on campus to deliver instruction and conduct research. Where will the money come from to buy, repair, replace? Faculty compensation is my third concern. We have all recognized that there are serious problems with faculty compensation. Entry level salaries versus long term faculty, merit compensation, faculty compression issues, etc. Are there steps we can take immediately to assist in this matter?

We have an opportunity with the computational engineering program coming from Mississippi State. This will involve a research component and academic scholars and teachers. We hope this will expand and double our funding in this area. This is a significant milestone in the university's history and will put us on the map as well as help us with contributions to funding.

Vice Chancellor Brown

We are off to a good year. We experienced a modest growth this year and were the only campus to do so. We think that we can provide the 2% raise in January as well as support the SACS initiatives we need to do. The campus is torn-up but we are making progress with this. We have opened up 500 new beds across McCallie Ave. and suggest we have a council meeting over there. I want to welcome John Friedl and look forward to working with him this year.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

There is a full faculty meeting next Tuesday at 3:00 pm. We are also looking at using the website more for communication and distribution of information and minutes.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

We are off and running!

Susan Davidson
Faculty Council Secretary