

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
February 19, 2004

Faculty Senate Members Present: Rich Allen, Mike Bell, Roger Briley, Nicholas Boer, Chris Brockman, Linda Collins, Neal Coulter, Parthansarati Dileepan, Fritz Efaw, Marvin Ernst, David Garrison, Matt Greenwell, Jim Hiestand, Anne Johnson, Rick Keyser, Robin Lee, Claire McCullough, Gail Meyer, Gerg O'Dea, Burch Oglesby, Gretch Potts, Stacy Ray, Sean Richards, John Trimpey, Randy Walker, Judithy Wakim

Faculty Senate Members Absent: Obasi H. Akan, David Ashe, Stephanie Bellar, Jim Henry, Lauri Hyers, Terry LeMoyné, Anne Lindsey, Joe Wilferth

Ex-Officio Members Present: David Pittenger, John Friedl, Jocelyn Sanders, Bill Stacy

Among the Guests Present: Deborah Arfken, Suzanne Bidek, Sara Brinn, Rachel Brown, Herb Burhenn, Tiffany Campbell, Chuck Cantrell, Jim Cunningham, Robert Duffy, Meg Farrell, Whitney Fulwiler, T.J. Howe, Phil Kazemersky, Andy Novobilski, Christian Orth, Linda Orth, Farhad Raiszadeh, Richard Rice, Mike Russell, Valerie Rutledge, Caroline Sharpton, Naomi Sutherland, Mary Tanner, Ginny Thomas, Sandy Zitkus

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Agenda change: Item 5b, Incentive Pay Ad Hoc Committee is postponed due to illness of Jim Henry;
Add: fall '05 calendar correction.

Approval of minutes: The minutes were approved with one change. Gretchen Potts noted that the following change: Library Committee: Provost Friedl's interpretation of the committee's request should read "the Faculty Senate would consider this **a** top spending item" vs. **the** top spending item...

Executive Committee Report: two items acted on at the last senate mtg. will be taken to the full faculty for approval: discontinuation of EHLS university graduation requirement and oral communication, intensive writing, and computer competency university graduation requirements. The faculty secretary is asked to call a faculty

meeting, to consider these items. If a quorum is not obtained at the faculty meeting, the Senate will have a second vote on these issues.

Secondly, the Lupton Faculty Professional development fund is exhausted. Over 250 faculty members have been supported to participate in local, regional and national meetings. No additional requests will be considered.

Administrative Reports: none were given.

Old Business

Curriculum Committee: the following program curriculum changes are moved for approval by the committee. All have been approved by the Curriculum Committee. Proposals were distributed electronically.

Engineering, Teacher Preparation Academy, Math, Theater and Speech with the exception of the gender course and Biology proposals.

All voted on as a group and approved 25 -0

Incentive Pay Ad Hoc Committee – postponed.

Calendar committee – Deborah Arfken – Calendar has been revised, thanks to the proposal from Jim Hiestand to allow both MWF and TT classes to have a full schedule of classes for the 14 weeks of the fall '04 semester. Fall break is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, October 25 and 26, 2004. Thanksgiving break will be Wednesday through Friday, November 24, 25, and 26. Matt Greenwell moved approval, Gretchen Potts seconded to motion as presented. A question was raised about whether there will be a reading day in fall '04. Deborah Arfken responded in the affirmative, indicating that the semester begins on August 23, ends December 6, 2004. The academic calendar is posted at <http://www.utc.edu/Units/Records-Registration/>.

Budget and Economic Status Committee: Chairman Farhad presented a proposal for tuition parity with UTK. (See attached) Discussion followed. Jim Hiestand asked who has to approve this proposal? Chairman Raiszadeh indicated that, if approved on our campus, the proposal would have to be approved all the way to THEC. The committee is hoping for UTC approval, and then see what happens.

John Trimpey asked whether there is a mention of tuition costs in the chancery agreement when UC merged with the UT system. Response: Admissions standards and faculty salaries were to be same, but there was no mention of tuition.

Gail Meyer expressed a concern about an increase in tuition may make it impossible for some students to attend college.

Nicholas Boer asked for student input. (Students were attending to discuss another agenda item). One student responded that the quality of education is comparable to UTK, and tuition cost was not a primary concern. Another student indicated that tuition was minor consideration for choosing UTC.

A question was raised about the rationale for the disparity between campuses. Traditionally the flag ship of a system will have a higher tuition.

Is this proposal fair to students, especially without the system providing more parity in the funding formula? Fritz Efaw responded that system-wide parity is the issue, this is not just a tuition issue. If we say parity is our position, as a faculty, then the issue will be getting the legislature to put more money into the funding formula to help keep costs down for students.

Provost Friedl stated that the current practice is all schools receive the same % increase in THEC/state funding. What happens if we need a 10% increase in tuition to meet the budget when UTK only asks for a 5% increase? We're limiting ourselves in this case.

Rich. Rice responded that situation would be unlikely to happen, but we could ask for a change again to meet our needs at that time. Our quality is equal, but we offer a different service of smaller classes taught by full-time faculty.

Provost Friedl indicated that THEC recommends funding based on a per student cost minus tuition. THEC then recommends a budget for higher education to the legislature. The amount funded is based on how much money is available for education; then THEC funds each institution. This proposal could reduce THEC funding to UTC. Fritz Efaw responded that in that case, a zero tuition would be best for UTC.

Again, what is the benefit of this proposal. Raiszadeh responded status; it would make us equal to Knoxville.

Burch Oglesby asked whether we are we going to accept, on faith, that an increase in tuition will not adversely affect enrollment. He indicated that he didn't have a problem with a different level of tuition since UTK is not one of our peer institutions.

Vote: Motion to approve the resolution as presented by the committee. Show of hands: 11 y, 12 no, motion failed.

New Business

Standards Committee: Mike Russell indicated that he was bringing forward three items from the committee, all of which passed unanimously in committee.

A: The Standards Committee recommends that the approval of graduation lists at faculty meetings be discontinued. Motion passed unanimously. President Ernst indicated that this item should be placed on the agenda for the called faculty meeting.

B: Recommendation from records to change the undergraduate catalog for how to handle suspensions and dismissals. (Attached)

After discussion, a motion was made to remand this proposal back to committee for further review and consultation with the Petitions and Admissions Committees. Motion to remand passed.

C: The Academic Standards Committee recommends the abolition of required mid-term grades, but asks that faculty explain clearly the weighting of final grades in their syllabi and promptly grade and return work. Based on graded work at midterm faculty should advise students, in writing, only if they currently are earning a "D" or an "F."

Students, representing the SGA, were in attendance to discuss this issue. Students don't like the idea. They indicated that they need the information to help them make decisions on whether they need to work harder to keep a scholarship or to maintain a desired GPA.

Gail Meyer stated that when this was first implemented in 1987, students were complaining that they were not receiving any feedback from professors before the drop date. This could become a current problem if we adopt this proposal.

Matt Greenwell said less information can't be better for students.

Greg O'Dea called the question. Passed.

Vote on motion to drop mid-term grades. Motion failed on voice vote.

Faculty Concerns: None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Garrison and Randy Walker, acting secretaries for the day.