

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE FULL FACULTY
18 November 2013**

1. Call to Order

Faculty Senate President Deborah McAllister called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence for Chancellor Bogue

A moment of silence was observed in honor of recently deceased Chancellor Grady Bogue, a true believer in faculty who serve this University.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by acclamation, as were a list of action items from the meeting of February 2013 in lieu of minutes.

4. Election of At-Large Senators

Two nominations were duly received by the appointed day and hour. Assistant Professors Brian Rogers (of the Lupton Library) and Dr Alleene Pingnot (of the School of Nursing) were nominated for the two-year and one-year vacancies respectively. No other nominations having been received, they were elected by acclamation.

5. Report from the President of the Faculty Senate

Dr McAllister reported that the Faculty Senate's webpage is running, with minutes and documents posted there from recent meetings covering advising, intramurals, Qualtrics, and capital projects, as well as committee minutes. She noted for the faculty that the committees have been especially active this year.

Dr McAllister reported that after the last meeting, Prof. Oglesby took over as the chair of the Curriculum Committee; it has not yet met but is at least working. A link to the Curriculum Committee's website is on senate webpage. The Faculty Rating of Administration Committee's chair has been filled by Prof. Wang (Physics). The Student Rating of Faculty Instruction Committee's chair remains vacant.

6. Changes to the Faculty Handbook

President McAllister reminded the Full Faculty that documents which outline the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook had been previously posted for review. The Faculty Secretary, who determines the presence of a quorum at each meeting of the Full Faculty as per the Faculty Handbook (2.2.3.4), noted that there were far fewer than the number of Faculty required for a quorum present in the hall. In the absence of a quorum, no voting could take place, though a discussion of the proposal did ensue.

Prof. Townsend discussed how the current handbook is largely the same as that of 2008. Despite the fact that various Handbook Committees and their Senates have attempted to make many changes over the past 5 years, few proposed revisions have translated into actual changes to the text of the Handbook; some changes are not official until they are approved by the UT System, other times changes can be made by Academic Affairs in consultation with legal. In rare cases, the approval of the Board of Trustees may be needed in order to change Handbook language.

Prof. Townsend noted (kindly), that several years ago, Dr Covino, as chair of the Handbook Committee, gathered and organized the changes proposed locally over the past several years which had not been incorporated into the Handbook as well as changes proposed regarding the composition and make-up of the committees, had them passed by the Faculty Senate and then at two meetings of the Full Faculty, and then had them sent them to System for approval. System did not respond until months later; their response was that they wanted changes to be presented in a different format. Prof. Townsend and his Handbook Committee worked to give them what they wanted; however, subsequent System lawyers then decided that they did not like that either and Prof. Townsend again made changes to meet the demands of legal and sent them back. Still more months went by and pressure was brought on System to approve the proposed changes – some nearly a decade since they were first proposed – and instead of approving, System replied that they had found things that they want changed because they had problems with them.

Prof. Townsend reported that the System’s lawyers apparently object to Handbook text which they have “discovered” which had been approved years ago. He said that Academic Affairs sympathizes with the faculty and recommended that the faculty do what was done at UTK – to take the Handbook sections regarding faculty governance matters and transform them into bylaws. He stated that bylaws can be changed on a campus-level and only require the approval of the Chancellor. Prof. Townsend and his committee are bringing this change forward which has been approved by the Faculty Senate; however, the changes were felt to be “radical enough” to warrant seeking the approval of the Full Faculty as well.

Prof. Townsend then took questions about the proposal from the floor, chief among them being about the legal authority of the language of bylaws vs. the text of a faculty handbook. Noting that he is neither a lawyer nor trained in the law himself, Prof. Townsend expressed his presumption that a bylaws document would act like a departmental bylaws document; he did note, however, that the System and its legal team have not commented one way or another on this matter.

The question was asked whether this question could be settled via an online vote; the response was that there is nothing to prohibit it. Guidelines for Electronic Voting are in the (current) Faculty Handbook, section 2.2.6. There being no further questions, Prof. Townsend divined the will of the faculty to be to allow the Senate and its Executive to determine the next move.

7. Administrative Reports

Chancellor Angle

Chancellor Angle discussed at great length the most recent issue facing the campus, freedom of speech, especially in the wake of the recent student arrest and high tension levels across the campus caused by an itinerant 'preacher'. He expressed his fear that the campus was promoting an environment which had become too protective of this visiting speaker and not of the students or faculty. He noted, repeatedly, that if classroom effectiveness is disrupted, faculty are to contact Jim Hicks directly on extension 4761. He reported that the campus and the System were working on policies which would allow for freedom of expression on campus without major disruption.

Prof. Honerkamp inquired as to whether there was an alternative space where visitors could be located which would not disrupt the heart of campus. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor agreed that they were of a like mind but would appreciate the faculty's help in providing the data to prove that such events in Memorial Plaza were, in fact, disruptive. Dean Hicks' number, 4761, should be used in order to channel all of that data collection.

Prof. O'Dea asked whether a speaker could, in theory, apply to be on campus daily. Dr Delaney replied that there is currently no limit on the books, but that there is a stipulation that speakers not be allowed during exam times. He indicated that the administration is looking at establishing reasonable limits and expectations, follow the advice of UT's General Counsel.

Prof. Cowan noted for the Chancellor that as she has passed the speaker, she has observed verbally abusive behaviors, name-calling and such, which she believes goes beyond free speech. Dr Delaney replied that such is a challenge; when people are engaging with a speaker, they're accepting that person's conversation and, in a way, their behavior.

Prof. Hiestand asked about the student arrest and whether it was being looked into. The Chancellor replied that Vice-Chancellor Brown is in possession of several videos and that he will be conducting a full internal review of the whole situation. All were glad that no one was harmed in the course of the incident.

The Chancellor thanked the faculty for their input and suggestions on this matter and stressed that going forward Jim Hicks' number is 4761.

Provost Ainsworth

The Provost reported that he and his team are continuing to work on issues with summer school and its budgeting, how UTC handles online, and departmental revenue sharing models, which are under review. He stressed that all faculty should be engaged in the process of Bylaws revision which he views as critically important especially for Promotion and Tenure and EDO, two processes which he noted were currently disconnected but which he wanted to see better integrated so as to ensure a fair hearing for candidates. He does not want to see further situations where procedure is not followed. He again expressed his desire to find more ways in which Academic Affairs can work better to serve the faculty, providing service to faculty to enable them to better function.

Prof. Sompayrac asked the Provost if he was so concerned about making summer school work, why not let students enroll earlier? The Provost agreed to start that conversation. Dr Potts brought up how financial aid may play into that, but Assistant Provost Freeman had not heard of it, so he would check it out. Dr Moody pointed out that faculty under the present system have to do double duty giving out advising codes. Such was duly noted.

The Provost also noted that roll must be taken in the first 14 days in every class now; such is a regulatory matter. He indicated that his staff were looking at ways to do it including texting it. He said that he wished to automate the process as much as possible.

Vice-Chancellor Brown

The Vice-Chancellor discussed the previous week's meeting of THEC for their winter meeting and the budget. He highlighted that their recommendation on tuition is 1-4% for public four-year universities going forward. He thinks it'll be 3% for UT. He noted that this recommendation comes with proviso – if giving a raise to employees, fully fund the raise. He noted that President DiPietro has asked governor for a special allocation to close the salary gaps of \$14m.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the faculty that for the last year and a half to two years he has been ranting and raving about CCTA, how UTC needs to perform under the act, and how it needs to improve outcomes in terms of the graduation and completion metrics. He noted that if the projected data holds, for the first time in three years UTC should have a positive financial recommendation as a result of performance. That said, he noted that he has prepared a 5% base-budget reduction which he hopes will not happen.

8. Faculty Concerns

None.

9. Announcements

The Faculty Secretary reminded those still assembled that they would need to elect a replacement for him at the next meeting of the Full Faculty.

The Faculty Senate President noted that the other vacancies, that of Faculty Senate President and the At-Large seats would also be voted upon at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Recorded by Ralph Covino, Faculty Secretary