

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL FACULTY

9/08/2009

Pedro Campa called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. The minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting were approved (Fanning/Honerkamp).

Gretchen Potts was elected to the Faculty Administrative Relations Committee

Dr. Brian Mayol addressed the faculty regarding the new University Health Services, now in Erlanger.

Dr. Campa reported on the TUFSS (Tennessee University Faculty Senates) meeting in which he recently participated. This group comprises representatives of the faculty senates from Tennessee's universities. The group has developed a document that all faculty senates in the state will be asked to approve regarding the future configuration of the UT system with the objective of protecting graduate programs, serving students, and cutting administrative costs. He also addressed a complaint about how Faculty Senate committees are constituted. There were 143 requests to serve on such committees, including some requests asking not to be put on a committee. In some cases, 20 or 30 people wanted to be on the same committee. The form doesn't specify how many times a person has served on a given committee. Some departments and deans do not approve of university service and there is not much reward for faculty service. Marcia Noe noted that people are supposed to rotate off committees after three years of service, but the honor system doesn't seem to be working. She asked if there was a way to enforce this rule. This question went unanswered.

Dean Herbert Burhenn introduced new faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences: John Tallman (Art); Kate Jones, Stephanie Todd, and Krista McKay, (English); Richard Apgar and Lucia Montas (Foreign Languages); James Guilfoyle and Michael Thompson (History); Sumith Gunasekera, Amanda Matthews, Hadley Prigmore, Deborah Shepherd, and Davut Tuncer (Mathematics); Joshua Hamblen (Physics), John Tallman and Laurie Melnik, (Director of the Theatre Institute, Southeast Center for the Arts).

Dean Will Sutton introduced the new faculty from the College of Engineering and Computer Science: Mark Kilgore (Construction Management); Trisha Thomas (Chemical Engineering); Semmy Purewal (Computer Science); Steve Karman and Daniel Hyams (Computational Engineering); and Tae Yong Lee (Mechanical Engineering). New department heads are Joe Ovino (Civil, Chemical and Environmental Engineering), Gary McDonald (Mechanical Engineering), Joe Kizza (Computer Science), and Ahmed Eltom (Electrical Engineering). Assistant deans are Nesli Alp and Cecelia Wigal.

Dean Richard Casavant introduced new faculty from the College of Business: Bruce Wampler and Travis Holt (Accounting), and Frank Butler and Randy Evans (Management).

Dean Mary Tanner introduced new faculty from the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies: David Rausch (Graduate Studies Division); Brendan McDermott and Roxana Begum (Health and Human Performance); Gretchen Davis, Kelly Good, and Ray

Howard (Nursing); Veliska Thomas (Social Work); and Carol Brand (Teacher Preparation Academy)

Dean Theresa Liedtka introduced new librarians Lane Wilkinson and Caitlin Shanley.

Chancellor Roger Brown welcomed the faculty and asked them to focus on the good news at UTC, since so many other campuses are in dire straits: growth in enrollment and careful planning. We looked at not filling 70 positions, but we didn't have to cut people. Considering what is going on across the country in many college and d universities, we are in much better shape. We are going to have a great year; thank you for everything that you do. The new professors have joined a great faculty; have a wonderful year.

Provost Philip Oldham reported that despite the record enrollment, we have gotten off to a smooth start, which is a credit to the faculty. There are many positive metrics that we are currently seeing. While we struggle with the economy, as every one else is doing, the indicators here at UTC are positive. Our record enrollment of over 10,500 students is a significant milestone. It is also a record freshman class in terms of size and average ACT score: 22.7. Five years ago it was 21.7. Over last year there has been a significant increase in the first-year retention rate: just short of 67% this year, last year it was 60%. We are now getting more students for whom UTC was their first choice. Thanks for all that you do and will continue to do.

Dr. Karen Adsit reported on the SACS accreditation process and on the Quality Enhancement Program. SACS is our institutional peer review for accountability. One of their criteria is that we use data to make informed decisions. Our visit dates are April 5-7, 2011. We have completed our compliance audit, which is the traditional SACS report. We have identified some issues that we need to clear up and clean up, such as institutional effectiveness. Each academic and administrative unit must set goals and measures for assessment. Our Quality Enhancement Plan goal is to improve our students' critical thinking and we need to figure out how to do this and how to measure it as it relates to the entire curriculum. There will be open brainstorming sessions held this fall to develop this part of the plan. There is a SACS accreditation web site with a blog for questions that deal with the QEP process.

The current mission statement that appears in the UTC catalog and on the UTC web site was approved by the Board of Trustees without being taken to the Faculty Senate or full faculty. The mission statement was embedded into the Strategic Plan. The SACS accreditation visitors will ask faculty members if they know what the mission statement is and if they agree with it. A survey of faculty, staff and administrators were surveyed about the mission statement and the vast majority agreed with the statement, "I feel this mission statement is what a mission statement should be." About 600-700 people were surveyed. There is a focus in the mission statement on excellence in teaching and on community partnerships.

Richard Rice asked why there was no mention of globalization and internationalization in the mission statement. Kay Lindgren replied that it is in the vision statement. Roger Brown stated that he agreed with Dr. Rice. With respect to the question of why the mission statement was not brought to the faculty, Charles Nelson stated that it was presented publicly on November 28, 2008, along with the Strategic Plan, and that the Strategic Planning Committee should not be blamed if the Faculty Senate did not bring it up for a vote. Dr. Campa noted that a public

presentation is not bringing it up for a vote. Copies of the mission statement were distributed to the faculty and the statement was projected to the faculty; a vote was then called for, and the mission statement passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Recorded by Marcia Noe  
Faculty Secretary