

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 18, 2021  
**Time:** 3:10 pm  
**Location:** online live at <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/91278732797>  
**Called By:** Tammy Garland, Faculty Senate President

**Attendance:** X = present

Senator/Proxy	Role	18-Nov	Senator/Proxy	Role	18-Nov
Barnes, John	RCOB NTT		Knox, Sara	CAS BS NTT	
Basham, Sherah	CAS BS T/TT	X	Locander, Dave	RBOB T/TT	
Boyd, Jennifer	President Elect	X	Mandravelis, Stephen	CAS FA T/TT	X
Caskey, Jodi	At-Large, NTT		McPherson, Joyce	At-Large, Adj	X
Colston, Marissa	At-Large	X	Mills, Ethan	CAS HU T/TT	X
Crawford, Beth	CHEPS T/TT	X	Mitchell, Tiffany	CAS HU NTT	X
Crittenden, Courtney	At-Large	X	Nall, Rachel	CHEPS NTT	X
Court, David	CAS FA NTT	X	Nichols, Roger	CAS MS T/TT	X
Cruz, Elicia	CHEPS NTT	X	Ozmy, Joshua	Non-Voting	X
Cummiskey, Julia	At-Large	X	Padalino, Carolyn	CHEPS NTT	X
Debter, David	CAS MS NTT		Palmer, Heather	CAS HU T/TT	
DePrez, Bernadette/ Amber Roache'	CHEPS T/TT	X	Panagiotou, Eleni	CAS MS T/TT	X
Devries, Stephanie	CAS MS T/TT	X	Phuong, Chang	CECS NTT	
Dileepan, Dileep	RCOB T/TT		Schafer, Erika	CAS FA T/TT	X
Dockery, Todd	RCOB NTT	X	Schultz, Lucy	CAS HU NTT	X
Epperson, Brooke	CHEPS T/TT	X	Simmons, Charlene	Past President	X
Fomunung, Ignatius	CECS T/TT	X	Simms-Robertson, Priscilla	CHEPS T/TT	
Gao, Culian (Lani)	CAS MS T/TT		Smith, Wes	CHEPS T/TT	X
Garland, Tammy	President	X	Stuart, Christopher	CAS HU T/TT	
Gillison, Stephanie	RCOB T/TT	X	Swaren, Chantelle / Wes Smith	CHEPS T/TT	
Goulet, Ron	CECS T/TT		Thul, Susan / Laura Tyndall	CHEPS T/TT	
Hansen, Christopher	CHEPS T/TT		Tyndal, Laura	At-Large	X
Harper, Neil	At-Large, Adj		Wang, Yingfeng	At-Large	X
Ibrahim, Hamdy	CECS T/TT		Ward, Chandra	CAS BS T/TT	X
Jordan, Joseph	CAS HU T/TT		Whightsel, Oren	At-Large, NTT	X
Khmelko, Irina	CAS BS T/TT	X	Wigal, Cecelia	At-Large	X
Kimbro, Devori	CAS HU NTT	X	Xie, Mengjun	CECS T/TT	X
Klingbeil, Thandi	CAS MS NTT	X			

**Author:** Cecelia M. Wigal, Faculty Senate Secretary  
**Date:** November 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Tammy Garland at 3:11pm and attendance was taken.

## 1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from October 21st, 2021, were reviewed. No discussion of meeting minutes. 32/32 approved.

## 2. Administrative Reports

The following administrative reports were provided.

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## ***Chancellor Angle***

- Tennessee law now prohibits UTC from requiring masking, vaccination, and quarantine. The UT system filed an objection to the law. UT Knoxville meets requirements for federal funding and thus does not have to abide by the Tennessee law. However, UTC does not yet have any contracts or grants with the federal stipulation.
- THEC approved capital projects and the proposed Nursing building ended up 8<sup>th</sup> on the list. President Boyd and Chancellor Angle are unsure why it is so low on the list.

## ***Lauren Ingraham, Associate Provost***

Dr. Ingraham mentioned the joint statement from Tammy and Provost Hale on the ability of the campus community to still wear mask if desired. She reminded the faculty to be fair with students.

## ***Yousef Hamadeh, Assistant General Counsel***

Adding to the Chancellor's report, if UTC gets a federal contract then employees covered by the order will have to be vaccination and masks will be required. He thinks one covered contract will probably cover all campus.

## ***Tyler Forest, Vice Chancellor***

The budget process was kicked off. He also mentioned that they are working on UTC being named as a "Best Place to Work" in Chattanooga. There will be a campus survey distributed December 3<sup>rd</sup> to get feedback toward completing the application.

## ***Brett Fuchs, Associate Dean of Students***

Updates are coming mid-November on how operations are changing on campus due to the new state Covid policies. He also mentioned that both students and faculty are struggling much this semester amid the Covid environment.

## ***Dawn Ford***

There will be updates to the campus on the new Covid message. UTC will continue to accept Covid case forms. Once the forms are submitted students, faculty, and staff will be provided recommendations for actions to take. UTC can no longer require isolation/quarantine, but can recommend it. If student chooses to isolate/quarantine, then UTC will let faculty know this is occurring. UTC cannot require students to report and thus contact tracing is not occurring.

## ***Linda Liedtaka, Dean Library***

There will be more going on next week about the QEP.

### **3. Committee Reports**

No reports provided

### **4. New Business**

The following new business was discussed.

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## *Awards Committee*

The Faculty Senate is looking at adding this committee as a standing committee. Matt Matthews thinks there should be descriptions of the awards so they are consistent and people understand what the University defined awards are.

Charlene motioned to amend the Bylaws language to read “The committee is responsible for creating award categories and selecting the criteria for University-level faculty awards from a list of finalists supplied by the colleges. (Beth Crawford seconded).

The motion passed with a vote of 35 yes, 1 no. passes. The Bylaws entire wording, as shown below, also passed (34 yes, 0 no).

## **University Award Committee**

Responsibilities: The committee is responsible for creating award categories and selecting the criteria for university-level awards from a list of finalists supplied by the colleges.

Composition: 2 faculty members from each academic college and the library. Representatives from each academic college should be from two separate disciplines. Ex officio: Provost designee.

## *COVID-19 Syllabus Statement*

Due to the present conditions, Tammy is recommending that there be no Covid Absence Policy and now treat Covid as any other illness. Julia Cumiskey suggests that we still have a policy - Covid is not like any other illness. Julia suggested that the policy is a good opportunity to communicate best practices regarding COVID-19 to students.

Brett Fuchs added that students are very concerned that actions and policies are not consistent with public health practices. He states many students will not wear masks due to peer pressure. Others added that the new policy can simply be a change of “required” to “recommend.”

Tiffany Mitchell motioned and Chandra Ward seconded, that the Senate develop a Spring 2022 Covid Absence Policy. Specifically, the motion states that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, with Yousef Hamadeh, work on a Spring 2022 Covid Policy and bring it to the Faculty Senate for approval. Motion passed (34 yes, 4 no). The Faculty Senate vote on the Spring 2022 Covid Policy will occur prior to graduation.

## *University Absence Policy*

It was recognized that UTC does not have a university-wide absence policy. Brett Fuchs mentioned that the university should expect documentation from students regarding any health excuse. Matt Matthews stated that a common policy would be helpful across campus. Tammy Garland stated that the Senate will consider a university-wide attendance policy beginning in January.

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Jennifer Boyd wondered why illness may be treated differently in different departments. For example, some departments may not allow students to make up work. Brett Fuchs added that students not having a general attendance policy is an equity issue.

## ***Sick Leave Policy***

Tammy Garland reminded the Senate that the present system Sick Leave document out for review is a general policy to get a policy initiated. Matt Matthews commented that there is no reason UTC cannot draft a local implementation of a university system policy while this review of the system document is going on.

There is concern about how time will be documented to support this policy. The fear is that this may lead to some practices such as requiring or counting hours on campus, that full time faculty are not interested in. Matt Matthews' opinion – as dude on the street – is that faculty will be working on their own reconnaissance. However, if the faculty are not TEACHING a class then they need to report this. But the faculty will not be expected to clock in and clock out. There was a suggestion to look at the TN labor laws for proper language with respect to measuring hours for determining sick leave to alleviate uncertainty.

Matt confirmed that policies will not be generated without involving the faculty and department heads.

An informal poll of the Faculty Senate resulted in 24 for and 4 against the Faculty Senate drafting a university wide sick leave policy.

## **5. Old Business**

None

## **6. Faculty Concerns**

The Faculty Senate is going to attempt to address the Workload Policy this next semester. Tammy may look at an adhoc committee to take this on.

## **7. Announcements**

The following announcements were made.

- The next Faculty Senate Meeting is Thursday, January 20, 2022
- Charlene Simmons is requesting faculty to participate in graduation as Marshals.
- Happy Holidays!

## **8. Adjournment**

Carolyn Padalino moved for adjournment; it was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.