

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 17, 2022  
**Time:** 3:10 pm  
**Location:** online live at <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/93413468981>  
**Called By:** Tammy Garland, Faculty Senate President

**Attendance:** X = present

Senator	Role	17-Feb	Senator	Role	17-Feb
Barnes, John	RCOB NTT		Knox, Sara	CAS BS NTT	
Basham, Sherah	CAS BS T/TT	X	Locander, Dave	RBOB T/TT	X
Boyd, Jennifer	President Elect	X	Mandravelis, Stephen	CAS FA T/TT	
Caskey, Jodi	At-Large, NTT	X	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		Nichols, Roger	CAS MS T/TT	X
Cruz, Elicia	CHEPS NTT		Ozmy, Joshua	Non-Voting	X
Cummiskey, Julia	At-Large	X	Padalino, Carolyn	CHEPS NTT	X
Debter, David	CAS MS NTT	X	Palmer, Heather	CAS HU T/TT	X
DePrez, Bernadette (Cherry Guim Proxy)	CHEPS T/TT	X	Panagiotou, Eleni	CAS MS T/TT	X
Devries, Stephanie	CAS MS T/TT		Phuong, Chang	CECS NTT	
Dileepan, Dileep	RCOB T/TT		Schafer, Erika	CAS FA T/TT	X
Dockery, Todd	RCOB NTT		Schultz, Lucy	CAS HU NTT	X
Epperson, Brooke	CHEPS T/TT	X	Simmons, Charlene	Past President	X
Fomunung, Ignatius	CECS T/TT		Simms-Robertson, Priscilla	CHEPS T/TT	X
Gao, Culian (Lani)	CAS MS T/TT		Smith, Wes	CHEPS T/TT	X
Garland, Tammy	President	X	Stuart, Christopher	CAS HU T/TT	X
Gillison, Stephanie	RCOB T/TT	X	Swaren, Chantelle	CHEPS T/TT	X
Goulet, Ron	CECS T/TT	X	Thul, Susan	CHEPS T/TT	X
Hansen, Christopher	CHEPS T/TT		Tyndal, Laura	At-Large	
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		Wigal, Cecelia	At-Large	X
Kimbrow, 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:** March 6, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Tammy Garland at 3:10pm.

## 1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the January 20, 2022, meeting, provided by the following link, were reviewed: <https://www.utc.edu/document/94226>. There were no discussions or corrections. Minutes were approved.

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

## 2. Administrative Reports

The following reports were provided.

### *Chancellor Angle*

Chancellor Angle shared the following.

- The search for the Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing is complete. Cassie Mathess will start in the position on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chancellor Angle thanked Gina Stafford for her work as the Interim vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing.
- UT Day on the Hill was yesterday. This is looking to be a good budget year for UT.
- House Bill HP 2670 (the Cameron Sexton Bill) addresses divisive concepts. It is important that the University be aware of it - it may pass. The bill specifically defines a list of divisive concepts and may tie our hands in instructing these topics. The bill does recognize academic freedom and free speech and the need to train regarding accreditation standards. Presently it appears that everything UTC is doing with respect to instructing and providing opportunities are ok. The bill allows us to continue our diversity activities but requires us to include intellectual diversity. The key element is that the University cannot require students to believe a specific ideology to graduate. The Chancellor does not feel this bill will impact UTC much. You can find out more about this bill at this link:  
<https://legiscan.com/TN/text/HB2670/2021>
- Another bill the legislature is reviewing will require the ACT score for admission to a 4-year university. Some in academia are thinking this does not add much value to admissions. UTC is monitoring this bill.

Julia Cummiskey mentioned she is concerned about the legislation of Bill HP 2670 itself and how people interpret it. This legislature has the possibility of becoming personal and at times dangerous for faculty. She is worried about this leading to determining what courses can include the topics. The Chancellor responded that he is looking at setting up some sessions with others on campus to start talking about the possible consequences. The stand of the University is that the bill is not needed. He stated that the University needs to understand what the fears are and what it can provide. President Boyd needs to be able to represent the impact. All the Chancellors are worried about this.

Ron Goulet questioned whether UTC's looking at devoting hours to DEI will be impacted by this bill.

### *Provost Hale*

Provost Hale shared the following.

- *SACS COC Update:* We are addressing requirements in 3 areas. The committee has been working and ensuring UTC meets the requirements and standards. One of the

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

requirements is the QEP. The timeline is working well – we are sticking to it and making progress.

- *RTP Process:* Every fall, Matt Matthews and the Provost meet to discuss the RTP process, especially issues that have come up in the previous cycle and need addressing. There are some issues in the present cycle. One, for example, is faculty correcting errors of fact before letters and materials go to the Provost. The Provost advises all to review the procedures in the Faculty Handbook and in department Bylaws and Procedures to ensure they understand the RTP process and expectations. There may be some handbook changes based on resolving these issues.
- Vice Chancellor Freeman, Provost Hale, and President Garland are meeting to discuss the processes and procedures of the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Provost Hale stated he will bring in external reviewers for recommendations. The timeline is to have the reviews completed and a report developed well before the fall semester. They are presently compiling a list of potential reviewers.

The Provost then responded to questions from the Senators about the process of approving departmental bylaws. Vice Provost Matt Matthews and General Council are involved in this process. The list of currently approved bylaws is located at: <https://www.utc.edu/academic-affairs/bylaws-for-colleges-and-academic-department>. The Provost stated that if what is posted does not appear accurate then the Provost's office needs to follow up. The office needs to determine if the hold up is in the Deans' offices or in Academic Affairs. Bylaws need department approval and Dean approval before they can be approved by the Provost office and General Counsel.

Julia Cummiskey shared that the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is looking at a way to simplify the content of departmental bylaws. She added that she believes the History Department Bylaws have been pending approval for the last 2 years. It is difficult to know where to look for policies if the Bylaws are not approved.

Ron Goulet questioned if there is any more help in addressing some of the requirement areas because the accepted bylaws do not appear to have these – such as the Workload Policy - and we in engineering are being held to them. The Provost stated that he and President Garland have been discussing this for the University. But this does not stop engineering departments from coming up with their policies. Dr. Goulet added that many of the bylaws are not up to date because they are not in line with the current Faculty Handbook. President Garland suggested looking at the Business and Political Science Bylaws for examples of ones that meet the current Faculty Handbook. President Hale added that the Business Bylaws may have additional statements and policies due to accreditation needs.

### ***Vice Chancellor Yancy Freeman***

Vice Chancellor (VC) Freeman updated the Senate on student enrollment. UTC has a healthy number of applications for fall – up 16% to 18% from last fall. This is up 100 freshman students. Students are presently signing up for summer orientations. They are hoping to have face to face orientations.

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

VC Freeman announced that there is an enrollment management plan being created. He is having meetings across campus to understand campus and student needs. Some areas he is addressing are:

- The value of Chattanooga
- How to get Alumni involved on campus
- Increasing support services for adult students
- The affordability of a UTC degree. (Hope increased from \$ 3500 to \$5100)
- How to promote the increase of the Hope scholarship in relation to the UTC degree

President Garland hopes we attend these sessions to help with developing the enrollment management plan.

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

VC Forest stated the University has a good, proposed budget from the Governor which provides good support of facilities projects including the Lupton building roof. They are getting an estimate for the temporary solution, then the complete reroof will occur over the summer. Hunter Hall renovations are on time – faculty will be moving in this summer.

VC Forest has met with faculty groups, student groups, and other campuses concerning 1<sup>st</sup> Day Complete. He is sifting through this information now to determine how to move forward.

## ***Vice Provost Matt Matthews***

Vice Provost Matthews mentioned that there exists a faculty engagement survey – the Coach Survey – that they want faculty to complete. The completion of this survey and its data will help the University compare job satisfaction with other Universities across the US. It should take 25 minutes to complete. It comes from Coach. Check your spam file if you did not receive an email from Coach. If you cannot find your access to the survey, contact Vice Provost Matthews to get information to gain access to the link.

## ***Dean Teresa Liedtka, QEP***

QEP recommended 3 proposal options. The committee is looking at these to provide a single recommendation. Two proposals are standing out.

## ***Vice Provost Lauren Ingraham, General Education***

The Working Groups' recommendations were received by the Reimagining Gen Ed (RGE) Committee. Over 70 faculty members participated in the working groups. The RGE Committee discussed these reports this past Friday. They hope to come up with a revised Gen Ed design in the next several weeks. Flexibility for students appears to be a major desire for a new general education program.

### **3. Committees**

No committee reports this month. There will be reports next month, including Bylaws revisions.

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

## 4. New Business

Associate Dean of Students Brett Fuchs addressed three proposals – University Attendance Policy, Grade Appeals, and Last Day to Withdraw.

### *University Attendance Policy Proposal*

Associate Dean Brett Fuchs addressed the development of a university-wide absence policy. This policy is broad and meant to cover a variety of absences (well beyond COVID). He described that the policy involves students submitting absence information to the Dean of Students Office, the faculty being informed of the situation by the Dean of Students Office, and the faculty being asked to provide a way for the students to makeup missed work or to complete alternative work. Faculty can view a draft University-wide Absence Policy at:

<https://www.utc.edu/sites/default/files/2022-02/DRAFT%20Student%20Attendance%20Policy.pdf>.

### *Grade Appeals Process*

Associate Dean Fuchs reported that his office is also working on a new process for Grade Appeals. The new process would involve electronic filing of appeals. Appeals would be routed to the Department Head to capture dates and times and to confirm receipts. This process is in response to student complaints received by the Dean of Students Office about not receiving replies and emails, in a timely manner to move through the Appeals Process

### *Withdrawal Policy*

Associate Dean Fuchs reported on the consideration of a new Withdrawal Policy that would allow students to withdraw themselves from all classes of a semester up until the last day of class. The single class withdrawal date will remain as presently defined. This policy will help students who have not been able to attend classes at all.

President Garland's biggest concern with this policy is that students who wait to withdraw may be able to complete course learning evaluations. Vice Provost Matthews agrees this is a problem. He is looking into it.

## 5. Faculty Concerns

None.

## 6. Announcements

The following announcements were shared.

- Faculty Senate divisional elections are presently occurring.
- At large elections will be occurring shortly. Expect the call next week.
- We have a Pres-Elect in 2022-23 – Dr. Donald Reising from CECS – Electrical Engineering. He was elected by acclamation. Congrats to Donald!! President Garland thanked Donald for volunteering.
- EDOs are due in March. Please get them in.
- State of the University is the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022
- UT System Board Meeting is Feb 24-25, 2022.
- A faculty awards ceremony of some sort will occur at the end of the academic year.

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

- There is a men's basketball game this evening. UTC will be recognizing SOCON faculty members of the year – this year's and last year's – during this game. UTC will also be recognizing the student athletes.

### **7. Adjournment**

Beth Crawford motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tiffany Mitchell. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.