

UTC Full Faculty Meeting Minutes

Fall Semester

Date: September 17th, 2024

Location: Derthick Hall Room 101

Presiding: Professor Jack Zibluk, President of the Faculty Senate

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Jack Zibluk, President of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.
- He emphasized the hybrid format of the meeting, designed to allow for maximum participation from all faculty members via in-person and Zoom attendance.
- The meeting was held during the fourth week of the fall semester.

2. Introduction of New Faculty

- New UTC faculty members were introduced by their colleges and departments.

3. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the previous February meeting were approved by acclamation.

4. Chancellor's Address

- The Chancellor welcomed the new faculty.
- The Chancellor noted **record enrollment** with 11,834 students, a **4.8% increase in the freshman class**, and a **13.7% increase in graduate students**.
- Funded capital projects of **\$414 million** were mentioned.
- The groundbreaking for the **nursing building** is scheduled for November 4th, with subsequent groundbreaking for the **business building** in the spring, and a **new residence hall** later next year.
- Renovations to the **University Center** are causing some scheduling issues.
- The university received a **Governor's chair in Quantum Science, Information, and Engineering**, which will be a joint appointment with **Oak Ridge National Labs**.

5. Unfinished Business

- President-elect Beth Crawford provided a brief update on the sick leave policy begun at the system level in the previous year, stating that the system is still working on it.

6. Senate Reports

- **Handbook Committee:** Vice President Jaclyn Michael provided an update on the handbook committee.
 - A **prototype of the online handbook** has been created and is available on Canvas.
 - Faculty input is requested on the features and navigation of the online handbook via a Canvas discussion board open until **September 20th**.
 - The online handbook is planned to go live on **October 1st**.
 - No Senate vote is required as the literal language of the handbook is not changing.
- **Total Organizational Health Initiative:** Chris Cunningham provided an update on the Total Organizational Health Initiative.
 - A new website was launched as a landing page for the initiative.
 - A new data tab will include summaries of ongoing progress, with 70 reports sent to supervisors and department heads in June.
 - Meetings have been held with leaders to discuss the data.
 - Two surveys will be conducted: the **McLean survey** for all staff employees, and an **internal progress check survey** in November.
 - The **COACHE survey** for faculty will be administered in the spring.
 - A new blog series addresses specific needs, with the next post focusing on stay interviews.

7. Provost's Address

- The Provost welcomed new faculty and acknowledged faculty and staff milestone celebrations.
- The provost addressed three issues:
 - **Campus Programming on the Presidential Election:** The university is planning five events with the Department of Political Science and Public

Service, including discussions on civil discourse, electoral processes, the state of the race, and post-election follow-up. A website with details will be launched, and faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to participate.

- **Faculty Workload Policy:** A draft workload policy has been prepared and will be shared with deans and faculty Senate leadership.
- **Reorganization of Academic Affairs:** Academic Affairs is being reorganized into three units: **Undergraduate Affairs** (led by Dr. Shewanee Howard-Baptiste), **Graduate Affairs** (overseen by Dr. Ethan Carver), and **Faculty Affairs** (led by Dr. Lauren Ingraham).

8. Open Forum on Faculty Concerns

- President Zibluk stated that the senate would take faculty concerns seriously.
- Committee assignments will be announced at the next faculty senate meeting.
- An update on the search for CCS folks is coming shortly.

9. Announcements

- The next regular faculty Senate meeting is this **Thursday**, same time and place (International Talk Like a Pirate Day).
- The next full faculty meeting will be in February.

10. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.