



UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

Meeting 117 Minutes
Aug 21, 2019
4:00 pm (ET) / 3:00 pm (CT)

UT Faculty Council Voting Members (Quorum, 5 voting members)

- UTHSC Richard Smith attending for Peg Hartig (Faculty Senate President) – present
Martin Donaldson (Campus Representative) – present
- UTK Gary Skolits (Faculty Senate President) – present
Bruce MacLennan (Campus Representative) – present
- UTM Philip Smartt (Faculty Senate President) - present
Chris Caldwell (Campus Representative; UFC Chair) – present
- UTC Jamie Harvey (Faculty Senate President) – present
Beth Crawford (Campus Representative) - present

Faculty Appointee to Education, Research & Service Committee (Ex-Officio voting)

- UTM Jeff Rogers (Board of Trustees ERS Committee faculty appointee)

UT Faculty Council Ex-Officio Non-voting Members

- UT Randy Boyd (System President)
UT Linda C. Martin (Vice President, Academic Affairs & Student Success)

Faculty Council Guests

- UT Jorge Pérez (Associate Vice President, AA&SS)
Stacey Patterson (Vice President, Research, Outreach, and Economic Development)

Call to Order by Chris Caldwell, Chair

Randy Boyd reported on his/UT summer activities. The university is working on a number of grand problems (opiod crisis, student success summit). He believes we are moving forward for the best 10 years for UT and Tennessee (I do not have any deeper notes, as the election/selection of secretary had not occurred prior to this point).

Approval of minutes of June meeting – minutes approved

Old Business

The committee elected a secretary for the year – Beth Crawford. Minutes for this year will be less indepth and will primarily be notes about discussions, topics, and any decisions or resolutions made by the group.

Discussion about the upcoming External Review of Promotion and Tenure Processes began, with

the group developing discussion points and preparing for the Aug 28 meeting.

The UFC asked what should we be prepared for with the external review committee. Linda and Jorge stated that the committee will have questions for us. We do not have to prepare. They are looking at a broad swath of the tenure and promotion processes.

The external review committee members have received a copy of the board policy, summaries of institutional missions, faculty handbooks, campus specific guidelines (and supplements), data on P&T rates, as well as dossiers from each campus for review. The meeting will be available by Zoom, however anyone who is local is encourage to attend in person.

There was some discussion of what will happen with this information. Martin asked if non-tenure track promotions will be included in the discussion? System is not aware of any focus on non-tenure track promotions. There was a follow up question on how non-tenure track promotions and evaluations are handled. Linda responded that the system is providing training support for department heads on evaluation processes. They have already conducted training sessions for several campus and intend to do more.

Bruce asked how the committee will discover any known issues with evaluation processes. System responded that Department chairs will be interviewed by committee. There will be a broad cross section of people on the committee. Further discussion of the evaluation process included anecdotes of problems with deans and departments. This part of the discussion was summarized with a statement that there should be a system priority for rigor and accountability for department heads and deans in the evaluation process. The resolution of this group about annual training for those involved in the evaluation process was mentioned.

New Business

Update from Academic Affairs and Student Success

Linda mentioned the joint CAO-CSO workshop. The focus is on student mental health on campus, with health science taking a lead role. The question was asked about who would attend the meeting. System responded that the Provosts are in charge of who to send to the summit.

There will be a new teacher preparation committee system-wide for review of our university teacher preparation programs and practices.

The System is establishing a Departmental Profiles review process, which will include representatives from all campuses.

There was a brief statement about the ongoing development of the UTIA/UTK merger/combination and the benefits to be seen across the university by combining these

efforts. Stacey Patterson mentioned some of the Oak Ridge Institute early discussions for alignment and impact. They are working hard for how to make this a win-win for both organizations.

Part of these efforts will include a research report on common/uniform practices for pre and post award of grants. There will be System support and a review group. For upcoming contracts and grants, there will be support for how to deal with changes in the federal grants and opportunities and regulations.

Bruce asked why the system believes this collaboration will be better than previous initiatives. Stacey responded that this collaboration will included a listening session and a sharing of data. In the past there was a rumor that Oak Ridge benefitted more than UT. This information was refuted with specific data: 25% of UTK federal contracts came from this partnership, 17 governor's chairs have been established through the collaborative partnership. The joint PhD program is the largest of UTK. She also discussed how different collaborative programs will be more strategic and administrative in a shared and intended mission. The new collaboration will create an umbrella structure that will lead to more productive processes.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Sept 18, 2019