

Meeting 123 Minutes
February 18, 2020; Videoconference
11:30 am (ET) / 10:30 am (CT)
Heritage Room in the University Center at UTC

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

- UTHSC Peg Hartig (Faculty Senate President)
Martin Donaldson (Campus Representative)
- UTK Gary Skolits (Faculty Senate President)
Bruce MacLennan (Campus Representative)
- UTM Philip Smartt (Faculty Senate President)
Chris Caldwell (Campus Representative)
- UTC Jamie Harvey (Faculty Senate President)

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 Linda C. Martin (Vice President, Academic Affairs & Student Success)

Faculty Council Guests

- UT Jorge Pérez (Associate Vice President, AA&SS)
- UT Stacey Patterson (VP Research, Outreach & Economic Development)
- UT Brian Dickens (Chief Human Resources Officer)
- UTHSC Terry Cooper

Call to Order Chris Caldwell, Chair

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Questions of, and update from, President Boyd and Chair Compton** (e.g., future of the presidency)

Randy Boyd gave an overview of the greatest decade for the University of Tennessee.

He specifically discussed the UT Promise – mentorship increases opportunities for attending and graduating from college, and the One UT collaboration – announcements of awards will go out April 6.

Gary asked about the right time to push for faculty representation on board. Jeff expressed support for voting member on the board. Added that it provides an opportunity for the board to converse. To have conversations about the topics. Include faculty in those conversations. John Compton – mentioned that the presentations to the board can be

much more brief and then allow time for questions and conversations. Chris Caldwell asked if the local advisory boards are useful. Randy responded that using the local advisory groups for advisory purposes is up to the specific Chancellors. Requests for reviewing how we do things are positive and making people look at how we are thinking. Chris stated that it is useful to address issues as needed. Board looking to help the university rather than fix them. When asked about the location requirements for the meetings, Randy suggested we consider asking for potential revisions to the law related to location. He said that laws can be changed.

Before leaving and allowing the group to meet separately with Board Chairman Compton, Randy let the group know that he has volunteered to stay in the job. For a contracted period.

John Compton stayed to meet with the UFC separately. He stated that the Board is doing Randy's review, discussing safety on campus, as well as lecturer pay. One of the Board's ongoing questions is about growing enrollment: where are we, are we getting tuition/revenue dollars, are we graduating people – how do we stack up to our peers? Where are the voices of the students and the faculty voices, the legislature?

Enrollment – our product has to be stronger than ever. How do we continue to grow? UT Promise is one growth opportunity. Our 6 year graduation rates are increasing, but we are not quite where we want to be. How would increased lecturer pay enhance freshman experiences? Oak Ridge research institute is an enhancement (budget pending). What are the voices of faculty and students? How can we make this a more rewarding place? This year, the Board included 108 people in a 360 degree review process for Randy Boyd. This group included senators and other key stakeholders. Universally, across the board, we have a night and day situation from where we were a little over a year ago. The legislature feels that Randy is personally out there county by county representing the university.

John Compton announced that if the Board moves forward with an official hire, it would be a term appointment for 5 years. The recommendation is that we will set up town hall visits for Randy to come to each of the campuses. The UFC members suggested an agenda, tight moderation, etc. Bruce added that the town halls will serve two major functions – allow Randy to make his case to the campuses and allow any positive and negative issues to emerge.

Chris took opportunity to thank John for allowing us the opportunity to talk and to share with him and subsequently to the board. John said it's an honor and he and the board want to get these few decisions right. The Focus act did several good things. Removing Randy and Governor from the board has allowed for more open conversations between John Compton, and Randy, and the Governor.

2. Brian Dickens (CHRO) introduction, input on family leave policy

Linda introduced Mr. Dickens, who joined Academic Affairs for System recently. Mr. Dickens discussed the ongoing process for family medical leave. What can we do for faculty to make a process like this work for them? There has been some discussion that practice may be different on different campuses. Do we build now or wait for an anticipated State mandate. Is there a plan to treat all state employees the same way? How do we calculate the cost for a 9-month faculty member? How do we use the fiscal notes for the process? We need to look at the practical implications as well, not just the

numbers and costs. The best source of information about how this is being done currently is the Department Heads.

3. Approve both the November and January minutes (Chris)

The December and January meeting minutes were approved.

4. System Updates (Linda, Jorge, Stacey)

Stacey Patterson provided a Research update on how we are tracking with the system wide strategic plan. Growth numbers not quite to goal. Some increases and some decreases. Over the past 10 years, system-wide we grew 46% compared to peers (38%). Looking at federal funding, we grew 19.3%, however there is still more money available in the federal pot. We need to increase and hire faculty who are adding research opportunities. Stacey reports that there are currently no Governor's Chairs in Chattanooga, however discussions are underway. Volkswagen partnership innovation hub at research hub allows for multiple campus opportunities. The Oak Ridge Institute is working on collaborative opportunities across the campuses. She briefly touched on the Insight software purchase. They are currently cleaning up the data so they are representative of the system, and further broken down campus by campus. For publications, we had 6149 system wide. The question was asked about how Insight deals with non-STEM disciplines. Stacey reported that the Insight software has been normalized for that. It can be reviewed at a discipline-specific view. Gary mentioned he is hopeful for one day having one program that everyone can work with. Stacey agreed; part of the process will be to all work together.

UT Research Foundation is doing better than it has ever done. We are moving forward and tracking well. Startup showcase for companies started – elevator pitch and fireside chats will be included. There will be one at UTK and one in Memphis. If Chattanooga or Martin wants to do the same, Stacey is requesting some ideas about the topics and companies to be included.

Academic Affairs update – Linda mentioned the realignment with institutional effectiveness, which is now coming under system. As relates to the UT Promise, we now have over 7000 students who applied. There are a number of mental health and wellness initiatives underway (starting with the summit held last November). The System is committed to resolving transfer student issues. AA is working on the UT Online consortium, which will include shared courses across the campuses. We are looking at metrics to compare with our peer's enrollment, retention, progress, and graduation. UTK Is comparing to the SEC schools and Martin and Chattanooga are comparing to the LGIs. For total enrollment, we are behind our peers. We are behind in terms of incoming freshmen. Retention scores are a bit better, but we are not there yet. We need to grow graduate enrollment, which takes resources. Research does grant matching and proposal support. How do we grow research and graduate education programs in face of declining dollars?

There was a brief discussion about strategic plan processes and who is/isn't responsible for them at the system level and the campuses. Linda mentioned the 5 goals of the system level strategic plan.

5. Campus Carry Bill (Bruce)

Expectation is that this bill may not see the light of day. Our current recommendation is to wait and see what happens in the legislature before trying to discuss.

6. Reminder about informal dinner (Beth)

Right before we adjourned the meeting, there was a brief discussion that the draft resolution about faculty representation on the board is on the table. Based on the discussion with John Compton, the group discussed letting it “soak” and waiting for a time before moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned.