

Meeting 125 Agenda
April 15, 2020; Videoconference
4 pm (ET) / 3 pm (CT)

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

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| 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) Beth Crawford (Campus Representative) |

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

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| UTM | Jeff Rogers (Board of Trustees ERS Committee faculty appointee) |
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UT Faculty Council Ex-Officio Non-voting Members

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| UT | Randy Boyd (Interim President, UT) Linda C. Martin (Vice President, Academic Affairs & Student Success) |
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Faculty Council Guests

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| UT | Jorge Pérez (Associate Vice President, AA&SS) |
| UT | Stacey Patterson (VP Research, Outreach & Economic Development) |
| UTHSC | Terry Cooper |
| UTHSC | Richard Smith |

Call to Order - Chris Caldwell, Chair

Agenda:

1. Questions of, and update from, President Boyd

Randy stated that everyone is working and all classes are converted to online. Randy thanked the group for feedback on his recent speech/video. It was very successful. UT Promise continues to move forward. Our numbers are good. The big focus now is on Mentors (Linda reported 800 this morning). We would like to get to 1000. There may be some students who do not qualify for the promise, but we want the number of mentors for a good ratio.

The steering committee is working on the Oak Ridge institute. We have grants moving forward. The task force about Mental Health has been meeting to improve support for students throughout the state. This is something the sunset audit brought out where we need to do a better job.

UT – Battelle contract was renewed, in collaboration with ORNL – we were awarded it this year without having to compete the full proposal. Got full funding and an additional 5 years.

Linda added that they are working with THEC and SACSCOC and others behind the scenes to keep things moving forward. Randy said that THEC has been very helpful to allow students to complete their licensure without having direct access to hospitals, clinics, etc. Sometimes rules can be changed if we reach out to them.

The One UT collaboration grants notices will be sent as a 30 day delay on the awardees for those grants.

Gary asked if Randy has heard from the Governor or others about the state budget. Randy has talked to them as well as to the commissioner. Some good news is that we had \$5 million dollar surplus at the third quarter report. The state is expecting a \$3 million shortfall in the last quarter. A positive balance is expected. Budget has been passed with performance funding, but we lost some of the requested additional monies for this year. Legislature will look at the budget again in June. We may lose the salary increase pool at that time...we should not count on the 1.5% salary money. We are in pretty good shape in Tennessee.

Peg asked about the volunteer mentors. As she reads the purpose and program, how appropriate is it for health science faculty? Randy responded that we have a number of volunteers in the Shelby County area. It would be good if we had UTHSC mentors for those students. Linda mentioned that people contribute in different ways. If you have the ability to invest the time, students would appreciate it. Would be great for a 1:1 match where possible. Let Linda know if you might be able to serve, but are not sure. Randy commented about the small number of UG students at UTHSC would mean fewer mentors needed there. Jamie mentioned that she was asked the same question. Are people assigned mentees at their own school. Randy said, yes, matches will be as close as possible related to geography, discipline, etc.

Bruce asked about looking ahead to the Fall and whether we will be online or back to campuses. Will decision be made campus by campus. Randy said will be the same throughout the system. Chancellors meet regularly. The team is already preparing a financial model for what might happen if we have to be online only in the Fall. Tomorrow's conversation will be about what re-entry looks like. Will everyone wear masks, etc. Whatever decisions will be made together. A few things will be unique, but we will all work together to create the messages.

Beth brought up the issue about the timing of the Title VI training right at the end of the semester and following the Chattanooga tornado, and that we were told the decision was from System HR. Randy and Linda will look into it.

Linda asked if anyone wanted to comment on general sense among faculty and staff. Are people in survival mode? Is it better than last week? How are faculty feeling? Philip responded that early on it was more about how to get it done. That was good until it came time to grade. Faculty feel buried trying to keep up with the grading and the final material of the semester. Some faculty were prepared; others were surprised and unprepared. Jamie mentioned that UTC has had the Walker Center and Library staff work with faculty and students to accommodate needs. We are trying to get to May 1. Excited about potential graduation dates in August. Gary said that it is very similar at UTK. For many faculty who already teach on line, it hasn't been that difficult, but for those who hadn't taught online, it has been a real challenge. Faculty with young children have had additional challenges. Everyone has risen to the occasion and we are not out of the woods yet. Perhaps we can let everyone get to the end of the semester and have a couple of days off. Peg mentioned that at UTHSC, they were having some of the same issues. Some colleges have been online for quite a while and that helps, but other programs have not been and are transitioning. The biggest issue has been students in the community doing clinicals, and now they are not able to go to their original clinical sites. Faculty are reminding students to communicate about their challenges. We have to remind them we want to work with them. Jamie mentioned a lot of our students have lost their jobs. We have be flexible and compassionate.

Randy mentioned it is now a financial crisis, not just a health crisis. We need to be compassionate about all our people and find ways to help them. They have done a survey of system staff, and some are really struggling. We have to be very compassionate and very flexible. Peg mentioned we should just be nice to each other. Team teaching faculty – may need to offer to assist.

2. Approve previous minutes (Chris)

Chris brought up the minutes and asked for corrections or changes. Motion to approve and second. Minutes approved.

3. Usual System Updates (Linda, Jorge, Stacey?)

Linda reported from Academic Affairs. She stated that most of what she would report, Randy covered. She included a brief discussion about the Tenure process – All CAOs state that the process is in place and moving forward in time for the board. There was a brief discussion about the post-tenure review process and whether it would need to continue. Each CAO is keeping up with the time and effort required to go through the process. We will use this information to make decisions going forward.

4. Other business

Chris asked if Beth willing to go for Chair. Martin also volunteered. Jamie moved for Beth as chair and Martin as secretary. Vote passed. This would come effective for the July meeting.

Jamie said she has appreciated being a part of UFC as president of UTC Senate. Has been really informative and helpful for her in her career.

Meeting was adjourned.