

Meeting 134 Minutes**February 24, 2021; Videoconference 4:00 pm (ET) / 3:00 pm (CT)****UT Faculty Council Voting Members (Quorum, 5 voting members)**

UTHSC Richard Smith (Faculty Senate President)
~~Martin Donaldson (Campus Representative)~~

UTK Shawn Spurgeon (Faculty Senate President)
David Patterson (Campus Representative)

UTM Sean Walker (Faculty Senate President)
Chris Caldwell (Campus Representative)

UTC Charlene Simmons (Faculty Senate President)
Beth Crawford (Campus Representative)

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

UTC Christina Vogel (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 Karen Etzkorn, (Director of Academic Affairs)
MMC Stanton Belford (Faculty Senate President)
MMC Michael Cathey (Faculty Senate President Elect)

Beth Crawford, Chair called us to order at 4 pm ET.

1. Usual System Updates

Linda Martin says state budget looks good (4% raise for faculty) and previewed what would be presented to the board tomorrow. Looking at transfer of MMC programs and tenure—will be brought to the board later this year.

Karen Etzkorn notes that they are looking at just over two dozen new programs. Three site visits at UT Martin one at UTHSC. They have two licenses for EMSI “an awesome tool” for those writing a proposal for a new program, emerging trends, They will have a tutorial/demo soon (let her know if interested). Previewed the student survey and noted students are having trouble with the transition to online, with mental health and finances. Will be presented at the board tomorrow. Survey may be repeated in mid-March. Working with the registrars to recommend ways to standardized diplomas (size, font, seal, paper, vender, major listed...) UT Martin may need to consider raising the cut off for honors designation to match the 3.25 used by the other campuses.

David Patterson asked about the EMSI software. The license was just finalized last week so few

know about it yet.

2. TUFSS Workload Survey results

Charlene Simmons noted that the statewide TUFSS Workload Survey results had been shared with the committee members. Campus level results for each campus will be sent to campuses senate president. And asked do we want to do anything with the statewide and do we want to share the campus level results to create a system wide report. There was some discussion noting Fall could be problematic, combining is good, and tomorrow may be too soon to report something to the board. UFC will come back to these later (April or May?)

3. Analysis of sick leave survey data

After some discussion, a meeting was set up with a few members to discuss and summarize the results.

4. UT System response to the free speech vs professional behavior controversy

E.g., <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/us/colleges-social-media-discipline.html>. David Paterson asked a series of probing questions. For example, was the system warned that this was coming? Do we have policies about...? We decided to bring this up with the President and Chair of the Board tomorrow and Linda would get us some of the relevant policies before that meeting. The new Chief Diversity officer has just started (Linda suggested we might invite her to a future UFC meeting). Richard Smith (UTHSC) noted that each of their colleges has a code of conduct informed by their professional societies and a committee of faculty and students found that the student should be expelled, but the dean (next in the process) over turned the decision.

5. Update on the status of the campuses' Faculty Senate responses to the UT Presidential Searches resolution (attachment)

UTC/UTK passed essentially the same resolution. UTM will bring a version forward next senate meeting (with addition about the inclusion of faculty voice in the process). UTHSC will not be bringing it forward. When done these will go through Linda and Cindy more perhaps through ERS to the board. UFC will look at these when UTM finishes.

6. SB0365/HB0473 <http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SB0365>

Charlene Simmons ask how this will affect chancellor searches on each campus. There was discussion of the involvement of faculty in the search processes, that this law would undermine shared government, and could decrease diversity. It was asked if this would even affect campus level searches. Linda noted that some chancellors thought this would help improve the pool and is a national trend.

Meeting closed at 5:06 ET.