

UFC meeting with Randy Boyd and John Compton Feb 25, 2021 12:45 EST

Attendees: Randy Boyd, John Compton, Terry Cooper, Beth Crawford, Linda Martin, David Patterson, Stacey Patterson, Charlene Simmons, Richard Smith, Sean Walker

Following the UFC meeting of 2/24/21 a list of questions was presented to President Boyd and John Compton concerning discussion topics at that meeting. Those questions were addressed at this meeting.

1. COVID: President Boyd said that the UT System is responding very well to the public health crisis. In the first four weeks of 2021, there has been an 84% decrease in the number of COVID cases across the system as compared to 2020. Across the system, he expects that there will be more in person classes in the fall.
2. Student Survey: across the system, 8000 students completed and 2000 made additional comments. 34% of the students reported being depressed or anxious.
3. UT budget: Additional funding was granted to the university in the governor's budget fully funded the funding formula, which included \$10 million to all campuses and \$5.1 million UTHSC and \$5.1 million for Martin Methodist, \$59 million for capitol maintenance and \$2.3 for extension.
4. Mr. Compton discussed the student survey. He also mentioned conducting a faculty survey in the future.
5. Questions by members of UFC:
 - a. David Paterson asked about the system response to committee dismissal and later reinstatement by the Dean of the UTHSC College of Pharmacy student over comments made on social media because of reputational damage that arose out of the event. President Boyd responded by discussing that a professional code of conduct exists for health care professionals. Boyd stated that he was not aware of the event at the time it happened but did speak with Chancellor Schwab. Linda Martin will obtain additional information about the event and will report her findings to UFC.
 - b. Beth Crawford raised the question of faculty input during the presidential search process. There are proposed bills in the Tennessee House and senate that are considering because the current bill regarding searches is expiring. President Boyd expressed that it is customary for faculty to be present on search committees when campuses are seeking to fill higher-level administrative positions and that these committees do not discuss the candidates until a final decision is made. The reason for this is great candidates might not apply if information is made available to the public before the final candidate is announced.
 - c. Charlene Simmons asked if it would be possible for the names of the final three candidates to be released or will only the name of the final candidate be

released? Responded that only the name of the final candidate will be released. Charlene would like to have the names of all finalists released.

- d. David Patterson supported having the names of the three finalists released for transparency so that faculty could contact colleagues at the candidate's home campus. David would like to see more transparency in the process.
- e. Terry Cooper responded that there is a cost to transparency, and that the candidate becomes a lame duck at his/her home campus and that the consequence of transparency would be that the quality of the candidates would be less.
- f. Charlene stated again that she supports transparency and would like to see multiple candidates come to campus so faculty, staff and students could ask the candidates questions. She stated that there are multiple levels of transparency and that releasing the names of the candidates is not releasing the names to the press.
- g. Terry said that there is no such thing as a secret and that the name of a candidate was in the newspaper.
- h. President Boyd would like to get additional thoughts on transparency concerning searches.
- i. There was additional discussion regarding the use of the name president vs. chancellor on different campuses in the state and in large systems nationally.
- j. Final comments
 - i. Boyd stated that he is open for discussion and gave out his cell phone number
 - ii. Chair Compton commented on favorable budget the university has received
 - iii. Stated that we have seen furloughs and other issues with colleagues and that we are grateful to the system and the board for keeping the ship afloat.

6. End 1:15 EST