

AGENDA

UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

April 9, 2019

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. University Faculty Council report – Phyllis Richey
- C. UTHSC Advisory Board report – Terry Cooper
- D. Senatorial Elections – 1. Senators and FSEC Representatives
2. College of Medicine Senators from Chattanooga and Knoxville
- E. Evaluation of Administrators: Faculty Feedback Action – Richard Smith
- F. Anonymous voting for the Faculty Senate
- G. Additional nominations for Faculty Senator of the Year and Administrator of the Year
- H. Voting on Faculty Senator of the Year and Administrator of the Year
- I. Report from Subcommittee on Non-tenure Track Faculty – Bill Callahan
- J. Additional committee reports
- K. Adjournment

Next Faculty Senate meeting: May 14, 2019

Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)

<http://tnfacultyssenates.org/>

Martin Donaldson

4/9/2019

- A. What is TUFS? TUFS is an association of the faculty senates of the ten four-year public universities in Tennessee: APSU, ETSU, MTSU, TSU, Tennessee Tech, U of M, UTC, UTHSC, UTM and UTK. It represents over 10,000 faculty senate members in the state.
- B. **TUFS Mission Statement:** *The Association of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) is a statewide organization representing the faculty senates of all ten of the public four-year universities in the state of Tennessee. The goals of TUFS are to foster communication among faculty senates across the state and offer faculty an opportunity to speak with a united voice on issues of importance for higher education.*
- C. MTSU, in Murfreesboro, hosted the meeting starting with dinner on Friday March 29 and ending at 11:00 on Sunday March 31. As host, MTSU supplied meeting space and food. UTHSC supplied me with transportation and lodging from the Faculty Senate budget.
- D. Highlights of the meeting:
 - a. Welcome remarks by MTSU Provost Mark Byrnes – the MTSU Faculty Senate has great administrative support, as does our Faculty Senate.
 - b. Discussion of **student voting on campus**. See HB554 below:
 - c. *Election Laws - As introduced, requires county election commissions to use public institutions of higher education with 8,000 or more enrolled students for polling places during early voting in federal, state, and local elections; specifies that requirement does not apply to special or general elections. - Amends TCA Title 2, Chapter 3, Part 1 and Title 2, Chapter 6, Part 1.*
 - d. Update by MTSU **lobbying** firm Ramsey, Farrer and Bates. They urged everyone to develop personal relationships with elected officials and once you have established a relationship then you can begin to ask for selected consideration on legislation.
 - e. Important point – you can speak with your elected officials as a private citizen.
 - f. **Note:** UT System has full-time office of government relations headed by Anthony Haynes and our campus director is David C. Mills, Sr.
 - g. **Free speech on campus**
 - i. Discussion initiated because of Sex Week at UTK
 - ii. Most college campuses across the state and the nation have an event something like UTK Sex Week; the students claim that Sex Week is about free speech.
 - iii. Our campus adheres to the BOT policy on free speech: <https://uthsc.edu/saes/student-conduct/documents/policy-free-speech-students-and-faculty.pdf>
 - h. **Cultural competency training** – our campus has initiated a diversity certificate program: *The Office of Equity and Diversity is excited to announce the Diversity Certificate Program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). Increasingly, diversity and inclusion are becoming strategic business drivers that have a direct impact on organizational effectiveness and reputation. Investing in diversity and inclusion is paramount to improving employee*

- engagement, serving students more effectively, increasing institutional innovation, and preparing more knowledgeable health care professionals. The program will demonstrate that embracing diversity and inclusion can bring a broader range of perspectives and backgrounds into our organization, leading to more effective decision-making. Participants will gain a sound understanding of the latest research and best practices in the fields of cultural competency and diversity. This initiative is a training opportunity for faculty and staff and in alignment with the Chancellor's priority on Equity and Inclusion. This training was originally suggested by former UT President Joe DiPietro and UTHSC if the first campus in the system to develop a program.*
- i. **Sports Betting Bill** - Gambling - *As introduced, authorizes sports betting in this state only in jurisdictions that approve sports betting by local option election; imposes a 10 percent tax on gaming revenue; distributes 40 percent of the tax to the general fund for general appropriations, 30 percent to Tennessee colleges of applied technologies and community colleges for equipment and capital projects, and 30 percent to local governments for education and infrastructure; establishes the Tennessee gaming commission to regulate sports betting; authorizes the commission to collaborate with the Tennessee bureau of investigation for purposes of enforcement. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 14; Title 38; Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 5; Title 47, Chapter 18; Title 49 and Title 67.*
 - j. **Counseling of students** – there was a concern on several campuses regarding student-counseling services: who provides it and the quality of the counseling.
 - k. Here is the UTHSC solution **SASSI**: *The Mission of the Office of Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion (SASSI) is to provide quality programming, services, and resources to assist students in adjusting to the emotional, academic, social and physical demands of the health science curricula and health care professions. Through SASSI methods, resources, and techniques, the environment is enriched to support adjustment, coping, learning and performance. SASSI services target accessibility, engagement, learning, prevention, counseling, case management and connection to promote a diverse and inclusive environment for all students. SASSI services are available to all UTHSC students free of charge.*
 - l. **Individual reports** were reported from each of the 10 campuses represented by TUFs and here are some of the topics discussed and the concerns expressed:
 - i. Dissatisfaction with the UT BOT being located on campus – UTK
 - ii. MTSU is working developing an evaluation system for chairs
 - iii. Falling enrollment on some campuses – especially TSU
 - iv. Concerns about ownership of intellectual property especially with on-line courses directed by private corporations
 - v. Developing guidelines for outside letters for tenure
 - m. **My bottom line**
 - i. Our Faculty Senate is a leader in the state for accomplishments
 - ii. Our administration works with us better than the administration of other TUFs members (except for space at MTSU)