

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES (Final)

Virtual Monthly Meeting by Zoom
October 12th, 2021

Attendance: (senators, administrators, and faculty)

Attending: Charisse Madlock-Brown, Jillian McCarthy, Christopher Ledbetter, Peg Hartig, Alexandria Wilson, Anne Zachry, Athena Davenport, Beth Choby, Bill Dabbs, Christina Spivey, Edwards Park, Elisha McCoy, Heather Moss, Hilary Jasmin, Ioannis Dragatsis, Jaqueline Venturin, Jeffrey Staack, Jianxiong Jiang, Karen Derefinko, Kirk Hevener, Kristen Bettin, Kristi Forman, L. Alexia Williams, Laura Reed, Lisa Beasley, Martin Donaldson, Maryann Clark, Michael Herr, Molly Erickson, Nancy Hart, Phyllis Richey, Rachel Barenie, Ramesh Krishnan, Ricketta Clark, Robert Jean, Shelley White-Means, Stephanie Lancaster, Stephen Pishko, Steve Doettl, Tauheed Ishrat, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Ted Cory, Terry Cooper, Thad Wilson, Tracy McClinton, Vrushali Abhyankar, Wanda Claro-Woodruff, Wen Lin Sun, Zeng Fan, Yanhui Zhang, Robert Jean, and three attendees on phones

Meeting called to order at pm 4:05 CST/5:05 pm EST

Approval of September minutes:

- The floor was opened for discussion of the September 14th, 2021 meeting minutes. Following no discussion, Dr. Cooper moved to accept the minutes. Dr. Hartig seconded. Minutes passed with 43 (98%) “yes”, (0%)“no,” and 1 (2%) “abstain.”

Faculty Senate Orientation:

- **Expectations of senators:** senators can choose on which committees they serve. They are expected to update their constituents, which be done after each monthly meeting. They can solicit areas of interest or concern within their department (ideally as resolutions). Senators must attend general senate and committee meetings. They can arrange a proxy if they are unable to attend a meeting (letting their

leadership know). Each term lasts three years and senators can serve for up to three terms.

- **Overview of the Senate:** Venues where the senate makes a difference include University Faculty Council (UFC), Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), UT Board of Trustees (BOT), Compensation Advisory Board (CAB). We have a spot at the table and can influence policy. We have a representative on the following committees: the Campus Strategic Planning Committee, Campus Master Planning Committee, senior administration search committees, Faculty Handbook and Bylaws Committee, and most campus infrastructure committees. We maintain governing documents, policy resources, contact information for all senators, committee information, minutes, reports, faculty statistics, memorials, and retirements.
- **Rewards of serving on the Senate:** Senators can establish new connections with faculty across campuses and find common interests for the success of our shared missions. During the first year, it is recommended that senators focus on attending their assigned meetings and getting to know how the senate works. It is important to have advocates for the faculty.
- **Senate initiatives:**
 1. The Faculty Affairs Committee is developing a fair and equitable plan to share outcomes and responses of the faculty feedback survey.
 2. The Research Committee is focusing on support for both productive and new faculty.
 3. The Faculty Communications Committee is updating the senate website. Please, send ideas!
 4. The Legislative Committee is working with the UTHSC Office of Government Relations and Advocacy to advance issues important to UTHSC.
 5. The Education Committee is focusing on helping faculty navigate best practices for online teaching and/or hybrid methods.
 6. The Handbook Committee is revising the senate procedures manual.
 7. The Computing & Technology Committee is working with IT and the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to assess policies related to updating technology.
 8. Several committees are working together.

- The Budgets & Benefits and Research Committees are reviewing how facilities and administrative costs (F&A, i.e., indirect costs) are distributed.
 - The Education, Faculty Affairs & Non-Tenure Track Committees are working on guidelines and procedures for teaching metrics (APPR percent time).
9. Senators will have an opportunity to meet chancellor candidates.
 10. Senators can advance ideas for a wellness officer.

Committee updates:

1. The Budgets & Benefits committee is meeting next week. This committee is working on more transparency regarding the UTHSC budget. Dental coverage changes resulted from this committees' previous work.
2. The Clinical Affairs Committee is meeting in the next couple of weeks.
3. The Education Committee will be meeting every other month, with planned meetings moving to the first Tuesday of the month (4–5 pm CST). So, they will meet the week before the full faculty senate meeting instead of the week after.
4. The Research Committee met. They have a small roster. They welcome new members. Please let the FSEC and Karen Derefinko know if you are interested in joining.
5. The Computing and Technology Committee updates are that there is a new TLC initiative with BlackBoard Ultra. You can subscribe to the TLC listserv to learn more. The official switch to BlackBoard Ultra will be next semester. You can switch your course before then as well.
6. The Legislative Committee is in the process of reforming. In the past, they invited members from the gubernatorial forum to come to campus. Members of this committee have gone to “on the hill day” to meet with our representatives. They would like a refresher course from the Office of Governmental Relations and Advocacy to help facilitate more interaction with government.

7. The Faculty Affairs Committee will meet on October 21st.
8. The Handbook Committee is working with the Vice Chancellor's Office. Chapters 1,2,3 of the Handbook had a good number of editorial changes for clarification and ease of use. They are meeting on October 13th. The Procedures Manual was 37 pages. It has been trimmed to 7 pages. They are working with the Faculty Communications Committee on a senate mission statement.
9. The Faculty Communications Committee is working on updating every form of communication: letterhead, logo, etc. They need a representative from COM-basic and dentistry. If there are senators interested, please let the committee know.
10. The Non-Tenure Track Committee's first meeting is on October 13th. They evaluated policies on other UT campuses and other universities. They will be looking at our own colleges' policies and developing recommendations. What should be the length of an appointment? How much notice should be given for non-renewal?

New business:

- The management of the faculty incentive program has shifted to the dean's office of each college.
- UT received a lot of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) money. Next month we will hear more about this subject from Tony Ferrara.
- Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings:
 - November 9th, 2021, at 4:00 pm CST /5:00 pm EST.
 - Speaker: Anthony Ferrara, Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance
 - December 14th, 2021, at 4:00 pm CST/5:00 pm EST.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm CST/6:00 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charisse Madlock, PhD, MLS

Faculty Senate Secretary