

# *Minutes*

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

## FACULTY SENATE

February 9, 2016

GEB A204

**Members present (n=32): Braxton, Ashanti; Callahan, William; Choby, Beth; Cooper, Terry; Cook, George; Donaldson, Martin; Fan, Zheng; Gray, Richard Ian; Hartig, Margaret; Hamby, Ellen\*; Hastings, Coleen; Jain, Vinay; Lowe, Tau Lu; Richey, Phyllis; Williams, Richard; Kumar, Sajeesh; Beranova, Sarka; Boughter, John; Hamilton, David; Head, Penny; Karydis, Anastasios; Ledbetter, Chris; Scroggs, Reese; Self, Tim; Spivey, Christina; Talati, Ajay; Thomas, Fridtjof\*; Wang, Junling\*; Webb, Sherry; Williamson, Wes; Wilson, Thad; Zhang, Jie**

**\*Attended by Adobe Connect**

**Academic Affairs Representative: Gonzalez, Lori; Russell, Cindy**

**Members absent (n=45): Airee, Anita; Accardo, Dwayne; Bensinger, Brown, Jami; Bruijn, Lucy; Buckingham, Steven; Burton, Eddie; Christian, James; Craft, Robert; Diaz-Thomas, Alicia; Elbiad, Tammam; Emerson, Stacy; Grandas, Oscar; Gu, Weikuan; Haberman, Brent; Hatten, Marie; Hori, Rod; Mathew, Alexander; McCoy, Elisha; McDonough, Sharon; Ismail, Mohammad; Mutrie, Lauren; Joshi, Vijaya; Koshy, Santhosh; Lazarus, Edward; Levin, Michael; Malakoff, Gary; Martin, Dan; McDonald, Michael; Nelson, Eric; Noyes, William; Phebus, Jeff; Ragain, Jr., James; Rao, R.K.; Rinsdale, Lisa A; Sebelik, Merry; Shafi, Nadeem; Sharp, Jackie; Stegman, Elaine; Sun, Wen Lin; Vanatta, Jason; Versluis, Antheunis; Welch, Jennifer; Williams, Regan; Yates, Ryan; Wu, Zhaohui.**

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1. Call to order by President Wilson: 4:05 PM
  2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 12<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting were approved as distributed by email.
  3. Committee reports:
    - a. Faculty Research; RK Rao. The committee is working with Vice Chancellor Goodman and Alan Dupont to create a research data base. Focus of research areas are being developed by the OPR committee and will be presented to research councils. Seed fund mechanisms will be used to create centers of excellence.
    - b. Computing and Technology; Phyllis Richey. Dr. Richey thanked Bill Callahan (COD) for his efforts involved with the resolution passed at the January 12, 2016 meeting involving updates in the IT infrastructure at the UTHSC. A first step will be to identify resources necessary for the upgrades.
    - c. University Faculty Council; Phyllis Richey. Anthony Haynes, VP of Governmental Relations and Advocacy, discussed the IT Advocacy program and urged faculty to become involved with the program which encourages advocates to believe with the University's value to all Tennesseans and share that message with elected officials.
  4. Old business: Faculty Handbook report, Terry Cooper. The Faculty Handbook posted on 12/10/15 was not endorsed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Dr. Cooper's report is attached at the end of these minutes.
  5. Announcements: Call for nominations for officers, executive committee members and committee chairs
  6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

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Respectfully submitted, George A. Cook, Secretary, UTHSC Faculty Senate (with assistance of Dr. Martin Donaldson) Approved March 8, 2016

Upcoming meetings:

FSEC meeting with the Chancellor – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM in Hyman 101

FSEC and Chairs – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 AM in MSB 201

Next Faculty Senate meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM in GEB A204

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## **Handbook Committee Report Presented to the Faculty Senate**

### **February 2016, Meeting**

On February 4, 2016, members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with Chancellor Steve Schwab, University Counsel, Lela Young, and campus administrators, Vice Chancellor Lori Gonzalez and Associate Vice Chancellor Russell. After introductions, Ms. Young presented a detailed history of various approvals that elements of the UTHSC Faculty Handbook had received dating back to 1967. She indicated that following an exhaustive analysis of the extensive correspondence associated with these approvals, the 1999 Appendices J, K, L, and N were reinserted into the 2015 Faculty Handbook because they had been removed without Board of Trustees approval. She also indicated that all elements of the 2015 UTHSC Handbook had received either Board of Trustees or UT System Administrative approval. She Reiterated President DePietro's conclusion that the 2015 Handbook be used as the starting point for subsequent negotiations and proposed changes. The question and answer period that followed her presentation was both positive, constructive and highly informative. Finally, Ms. Young indicated that the documents associated with her analysis would be placed in the UT Vault electronic transfer system and thereby made available to the attendees. This, in fact, occurred several days later. Among the large number of documents provided was a copy of the 2010 version of the Faculty Handbook (in "tracked changes" format) in which sections approved by the Board of Trustees were highlighted. A letter from Vice President and General Counsel Catherine Mizell and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success Bonnie Yegidis to Interim President Jan Simek that accompanied that copy recommended administrative approval of the changes indicated. That copy is an attachment to this report.

The Faculty Senate concurred that the 2015 version of the Handbook was the one: (a) currently in force and (b) would be used for 2015-2016 Faculty evaluations and (c) the starting point for future Senate and Administration collaborative negotiation to achieve agreement on changes for its updating and improvement.