FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
May 6, 2013

Absent: Vincent Anfara, Itamar Arel, Joe Bailey, Rob Blitt, Stan Bowie, Jason Brown, Hoan Bui, Feng Chen, Chris Cimino, Christopher Clark, Michael Clark, Jim Conant, Paul Crilly, Ruth Darling, Lloyd Davis, Lt. Brian Delamater, Seddik Djouadi, Jerzy Dydak, Alberto Garcia, Iris Goodwin, Matthew Gray, Howard Grower, John Haas, Federico Harte, Ian Down, Noriko Horiguchi, Baoshan Huang, Sadie Hutson, Mike Jones, Ron Kalafsky, Kurt Lamour, Larry Miller, Yvonne Pelletier, Suzy Prentiss, Nathan Preuss, Susan Ratliff, Jennifer Richards, W. Tim Rogers, Amadou Sall, Fernando Schwartz, Steve Smith, Rob Spirko, Curtis Stewart, Adam Taylor, Mark Windham, Kenton Yeager, Songning Zhang, Mary Ziegler

CALL TO ORDER
S. Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m., once a quorum was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Senate President's Report (S. Thomas)
S. Thomas reviewed briefly the President's report which was posted on the Senate's website before the meeting.

- *Benefit Equality*: The letter, prepared by the Benefits and Professional Development Committee and approved at the April Senate meeting, has been shared with Chancellor Cheek and Chancellor Arrington. Information was provided on behalf of the Benefit Equality Campaign, a self-described "coalition of staff, faculty, students and alumni" also working on this issue.
- *Sex Week*: On April 10th, a report was received "that units on campus had been told by administration and General Counsel that they cannot discuss sex week on their personal blogs and Facebook accounts." With the assistance of Chancellor Cheek's staff, this rumor was determined to be groundless. A number of individuals have raised questions concerning the Chancellor's decision to withdraw academic support for this student-sponsored event. A compilation of those questions were posted on the Senate's website before this meeting, in the hope that these questions might serve as a basis for discussion of this issue with the Chancellor.
- *President-Elect Elections*: This year is the fourth in a row during which we have had extreme difficulty obtaining candidates (plural) for this position and the second year in a row when our elections were not completed by the date specified within the Senate's Bylaws. In this light, three suggestions were made. First, that the current caucus chair of each college hold an election for a new caucus chair immediately and report the results of this election to David Golden, to be assured of meeting the August 1st deadline within our Bylaws. Second, these new caucus chairs (who together with the new President-Elect form the next Committee on Nominations and Appointments) begin early in the next academic year to recruit potential nominees for the next President-Elect election. Third, that service as a Senate officer be promoted as a desirable opportunity.

Chancellor's Report (J. Cheek)
J. Cheek presented a budget report. S. Thomas noted that the report would be posted on the Senate's website following the meeting.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)
S. Martin mentioned several items briefly.

- The **One Stop** Express Student Services will be open in the Hodges Library for summer orientation.
- We will begin using **uTrack** with all first-time, first-year, full-time, degree-seeking students this fall. Tracking of transfer students will begin with those who enroll in the summer or fall of 2015.
- We have been working on **SACS accreditation** requirement that we have transcripts for each faculty member. We are using this opportunity clean-up our IRIS data.

- Matthew Theriot has agreed to lead the effort to prepare the **Quality Enhancement Plan** for SACS accreditation.
- Tim Hulsey has been selected as Director of the Honors Program and will assume this position on July 1st. A decision is expected soon in the search for a new Director of Admissions.
- The **Report from Task Force on Teaching Evaluation** had been posted as an attachment for today's meeting. The report suggests that our current SAIS forms should to be reviewed, either to streamline the process or to find alternative ways for students to supply meaningful input. Multiple types of measurements are needed. A more uniform practice of peer evaluations could be helpful. Please consider the report, although no action is being requested of the Senate at this time.

APPROVAL OF SENATE MINUTES

S. Thomas asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 8, 2013. When no changes were suggested, Thomas stated that the minutes would be accepted by common consent.

MINUTES OF THE GREADUATE COUNCIL AND UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Graduate Council (R. Brockett)

At the request of R. Brockett, review of the minutes for the Graduate Council meetings of February 28, 2013 and April 4, 2013, were deferred until the September 2013 Senate meeting.

Undergraduate Council (M. Theriot)

M. Theriot reviewed the minutes from the Undergraduate Council meeting of April 2, 2013. One policy change, concerning grades from study abroad, was approved. S. Thomas, noting that the motion to approve these minutes did not require a second, called for a voice vote. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

S. Thomas asked if there were any questions concerning the resolution presented during the April Senate meeting, to amend the Senate's *Bylaws* by changing the January provisional meeting date from "the third Monday in January" to "the second Monday in January" in Article II, Section 3. No questions were raised. Noting that the motion to approve this resolution, coming from the Executive Council, did not require a second, Thomas called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS: ELECTION UPDATE (D. Golden)

D. Golden reported that Joanne Hall and Thomas Handler had agreed to be nominated for the position of President-Elect for 2014-2015. Each candidate made a brief presentation. Golden noted that the candidates' biographical statements would be posted on the Senate's website with the agenda for this meeting. He also stated that the election would be held via electronic ballot between May 8—16, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Affairs Committee Resolution: Proposed *Faculty Handbook* Changes Concerning Romantic and/or Sexual Relations between Faculty and Students (S. Thomas)

S. Thomas reported that, based on the request of the Faculty Affairs Committee Chair P. Daves, this resolution was being withdrawn from consideration at this time.

Analysis of Student Retention (S. Gilpatric)

S. Gilpatric presented a report, prepared by the Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee, analyzing student retention at UTK.

- A linear relationship was found between uncapped core GPA for entering students and retained students for the 2008-2011 cohorts. (We do not have uncapped core GPA for earlier cohorts.) The marginal effect of a one point increase in core GPA is estimated to be **.126** (or an increase of

12.6 percentage points in retention probability), which is very statistically significant with a 95% confidence interval of .112 to .140.

- Composite ACT scores is not as good a predictor of retention, as the marginal effect of a one point increase in core GPA is **.0022**.
- Concerning Family Adjusted Gross Income, the less-than-$50,000 and $50,000-99,999 groups were very similar (marginal effect -.089 and -.087, respectively) when compared to the more-than-$200,000 group. The $100,000-149,999 and $150,000-199,999 groups were also very similar (marginal effect -.038 and -.039, respectively).
- There was not strong evidence that distance from a student's permanent residence was associated with a reduced retention probability. However, residency in an urban county had a positive marginal effect on retention of .045, with a 95% confidence interval of .032 to .059.

Resolution to Amend Senate Bylaws: Adding a Non-Tenure-Track Issues Committee (S. Thomas)
S. Thomas directed attention to a resolution, coming from the Executive Council, proposing the addition of a Non-Tenure-Track Issues Committee to the list of standing committee in the Senate's *Bylaws*. This resolution was being presented for first reading and will be considered for action at the meeting on September 16, 2013.

Revision to Resolution Concerning the Non-Tenure-Track Classification Faculty of Practice (S. Thomas)
S. Thomas reported that the Office of General Counsel had noted duplicate language in the proposed changes to the *Faculty Handbook* in sections 4.1.4 and 4.2.4 in the resolution passed by the Senate on March 4, 2013, to add the non-tenure-track classification Faculty of Practice. P. Daves moved to delete the first paragraph of the proposed addition to section 4.2.4, which duplicated in full section 4.1.4. S. Gilpatric provided a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Sex Week Question (B. MacLennan)
B. MacLennan moved that S. Thomas, D. Golden, and the new President-Elect meet with Chancellor Cheek during the summer to discuss the questions sent to S. Thomas concerning the Chancellor's decision to withdraw academic support for the student-sponsored Sex Week activities and to report the results of this discussion at the September Senate meeting. C. Shepardson provided a second to the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT
Adjournment was moved and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fritz Polite, Secretary