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Faculty Senate - University Systems Relations Committee Year-End

Faculty Senate

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2009-2010 Faculty Senate University System Relations Committee Final Report

This was the first year of the existence of this committee, which has the following membership and charges:

University/System Relations Committee. Membership shall consist of at least eight faculty members including the elected campus representative to the University Faculty Council and the Faculty NCAA Representative. During years when the campus has a faculty representative on the UT Board of Trustees, that person will also serve on the University/System Relations Committee. The Chairperson shall be a faculty member.

The University/System Relations Committee will provide for faculty input (a) into activities of The University of Tennessee system, including Athletics, Research, ORNL, Information Technology, the Cherokee Campus and (b) with the Board of Trustees and the Tennessee legislature. The University/System Relations Committee shall work with the Budget and Planning Committee to monitor The University of Tennessee system budget and Athletics Department budget.

The committee met regularly throughout the year with the following activities:

1. In August we reviewed our charge and set goals for the year.
2. In September we discussed the planning and development of Cherokee Farm with Vice-President David Millhorn, Vice President Joe DiPietro and the Chair of the Research Council Ken Stephenson. Discussion stressed the campus plan and fostering academic and research connections between Cherokee Farm and UTK, the Institute of Agriculture and ORNL. This is expected to be a continuing area the committee will need to devote attention, particularly to ensure Cherokee Farm enhances the academic and economic development missions of the university.
3. In October we met with Anthony Haynes and Vice-President Hank Dye to discuss approaches to the 2010 legislative session and the role faculty can play in advocating for the university. The committee should continue to work with the Vice-President for Public and Government Relations in advance of each legislative session and provide assistance when needed.
4. In January we met with Todd Diacon, Chair of the Taskforce for Athletic Reporting Alignment, which was then in the midst of their review process. Our committee includes Dan Murphy, Faculty Athletic Representative who was also on the Task Force. It should be noted that the Taskforce for Athletic Reporting Alignment has recommended that Athletics should now report to the UTK Chancellor. Should this be approved by the UT Board of Trustees in June, the Faculty Senate may want to consider removing the Faculty Athletics Representative from our committee.
5. In February we held a teleconference with UT Board of Trustee Vice-Chair Jim Murphy regarding the upcoming Presidential search. We discussed the timetable, the role of a head-hunting firm and advocated for a process to include appropriate faculty, staff, student and alumni representation.
6. At our final meeting in April we will meet with India Lane, the newly elected campus representative to the UT Faculty Council to discuss future campus/system related issues.

Minutes from all of our meetings are posted on the UTK Faculty Senate website.