Minutes, Senate Committee Meetings   Faculty Senate

12-4-2009

Faculty Senate - December 4, 2009 Budget and Planning

Faculty Senate

University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
Budget and Planning Committee
December 4, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – SMC 720 (CBER Conference Room)

Present: Don Bruce (Chair), Stephen Blackwell, Conrad Plaut, Harold Roth, Karen
             Sowers, and Klaus van den Berg
Absent: Chris Cimino, Jerzy Dydak, Michael Essington, Nathalie Hristov, Lane Morris,
             Jay Pfaffman, and Marlys Staudt

Minutes from November 6, 2009 were approved.

Gender Equity Study and Faculty Salary Study: Bruce has received the updated reports from
OIRA and will present them to the Faculty Senate Executive Council at the next meeting in
January 2010. They will then come before the full Senate at the next meeting in early February
2010. He reported on a meeting with Sarah Gardial regarding the gender equity issue. She
agreed to contact Lou Gross about the best way to internalize and regularize his analysis, either
in her office or within OIRA. Bruce offered his assistance with that effort. He is waiting to
convene the discussion group until it is determined that such a meeting would be worthwhile. A
question about the faculty salary study came up regarding whether UTK is part of the peer group
statistics which are compared to UTK numbers. He will follow up with OIRA and report back.

Campus Budget Update: Sowers reported that the Provost is currently convening meetings with
Deans of each college for the purposes of budget planning. Those meetings, which are closed,
will culminate in the Provost's presentation as part of the Chancellor's budget hearings in the
spring.

In later discussions, Blackwell brought up the issue of program closures. Specifically, given the
budget planning document circulated by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the
question arose as to whether there were any policies to deal with efforts to close programs by
essentially starving them to death rather than working through the undergraduate or graduate
councils. There was some discussion about current policies and procedures, noting that largely
undefined "consultation" was required with the unit in question. The current budget
environment could result in efforts to leave open positions unfilled, and to terminate lecturers,
without any broad discussion about what we want to be as a university (or a college within the
university). Bruce suggested that the current planning should involve a variety of scenarios
provided by colleges and other units, with strategic planning by administrators to decide which
scenarios would be carried out in which units. Rather than apply cuts in equal percentage rates
across the board, this would allow the campus to be more strategic. Current discussions do not
appear to be moving in this direction, however.

Non-Academic Spending Review Sub-Committee: The group discussed the process by which
input on current assessment practices will be obtained. Rather than a letter, it was recommended
that the sub-committee visit first with Chris Cimino and then with directors who oversee the
operations in question. The emphasis will be on learning about best practices, toward the goal of

issuing a report and possibly a resolution in the spring. The committee emphasized that we are not auditing any operations or programs.

Spring Meeting Schedule: Bruce will contact committee members by e-mail to set spring semester meeting dates and times.