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2-5-2010

Faculty Senate - February 5, 2010 Budget and Planning

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate - February 5, 2010 Budget and Planning" (2010). *Minutes, Senate Committee Meetings*.

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MINUTES

**University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
Budget and Planning Committee
February 5, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – SMC 720 (CBER Conference Room)**

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

Minutes from December 4, 2009 were approved.

Campus Budget Update: The committee discussed a recent announcement that state agencies were being asked to cut 6% in the Governor's proposed budget. Sowers reported that campus administration believes that such a cut could be handled centrally with help from a likely tuition increase. It is likely that class sections will be larger and fewer in number. We will look forward to an update from Cimino on budget planning at our next meeting.

Discussion turned to the Chancellor's idea to raise the cap on tuition to 15 hours and whether that could feasibly be sold to policy makers as a way to improve retention and graduation.

Roth reported that the new Report of the Treasurer of the University of Tennessee has been made available, and he will report on developments regarding Institutional Support spending at our next meeting.

Bruce asked about the Chancellor's Budget Hearings, and the group was not certain where things were in the planning or scheduling process.

Bruce also reported on the recent meetings of the Taskforce on Athletic Reporting Alignment, and noted that the Taskforce would issue a recommendation to President Simek at their final meeting on March 1, just before the next Faculty Senate meeting. It is likely that a resolution would be presented at that Faculty Senate meeting endorsing a change of reporting from UT System to UTK Campus.

Gender Equity Update: Bruce reported that he received an e-mail from Donald Cunningham shortly after the last Faculty Senate meeting, at which he presented the gender equity and faculty salary studies and recommended that the Provost's Office and OIRA stop producing the flawed annual gender equity study. Cunningham's e-mail indicated that he and Sarah Gardial had met and agreed that the OIRA report and Lou Gross' alternative study were of limited use due to data limitations. They plan to modify their internal method of analyzing salaries on an individual-by-individual basis going forward, and do not plan to continue either the OIRA study or the Gross study in the future.

Non-Academic Spending Review Sub-Committee: The group further discussed the process by which input on current assessment practices will be obtained. Given that none of the selected test cases fall directly under Cimino, the committee agreed to proceed by e-mailing and then

visiting with directors of those selected programs. Again, the emphasis will be on learning about best practices, toward the goal of issuing a report and possibly a resolution in the spring.

Budget and Planning Continuity and Leadership for 2010-11: Bruce reminded committee members that the Faculty Senate bylaws require 30% continuation of our committee membership from year to year. That means that at least 3 of the 10 current members must serve on the committee again next year. More than enough members volunteered to continue service. Bruce also warned that one of those continuing members would likely be asked to serve as Chair next year.

New Business: Hristov raised the issue of out-of-state tuition waivers as a way to improve diversity on campus and work toward top-25 status. Blackwell suggested that it might be best as a development initiative, such that special fundraising efforts might be directed toward generating pools of funds specifically for out-of-state students. Sowers pointed out that the U. of Memphis and UT-Chattanooga already have limited support for students attending from counties just across the Tennessee border in other states. Plaut asked whether such policies existed in other states, so the group decided to pursue the issue by benchmarking institutions in or near the top 25. Hristov, Morris, and others will work on this and report back to the committee, such that we might prepare a brief analysis in support of the upcoming “gap analysis” aimed at plotting a top-25 strategy for UTK.