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**University System Relations Committee Meeting
November 2, 2009, University Center Chickasaw (218), 2:00PM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Beauvais Lyons (Chair), David Atkins, Russel Hirst, John Nolt, Candace White, Greer Fox.

Members Absent: NCAA Representative (until filled), John Lounsbury, and Svetlana Zivanovic.

Invited Guests: Anthony Haynes, Hank Dye

1. Approval of the Minutes from September 28, 2009 posted at: [http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_09-28-09 .pdf](http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_09-28-09.pdf), approved.
2. Discussion of 2010 legislative relations and the state budget picture.

Hank Dye talked about the Faculty Senate Legislative Task Force from last year, which helped to advance communications with the legislature, and wants to keep a collaborative relationship with the faculty. We hope that the Faculty Senate can work through them in crafting a message. Having said this there will be times when there will be disagreement (such as the TUFs position paper), which is understandable.

John Nolt agreed that communication was good last year, and while the Faculty Senate sought your advice, it is understandable that we did not always follow it. However, on the majority of the issues he stated that we were on the same page.

Anthony Haynes said that the faculty and campus administration often play a significant role in helping to give his office information needed to address issues when they come up.

Candace White talked about the importance of communications so that we understand the issues and concerns from both sides. Lack of salary increases for three years was discussed, and the members of the committee are not sure what the faculty sentiment is on this issue. Beauvais and John said that that our committee will work with Toby Boulet to determine the faculty's strategic budget priorities (e.g. preserving positions, salaries, teaching loads, etc.).

November and December are critical months – because this is when higher education makes its initial proposal for the next budget cycle. UT's presentation to the governor will be in late November. UT will stress performance based funding for higher education.

Anthony talked about issues he expects to address during the next legislative session:

1. Proprietary schools in the state and the risk they present to undermining academic standards (with access to lottery funds and transferability of credits).
2. Registered guns allowed on campus. John Nolt said that the Faculty Senate could take a position on this issue.
3. Immigration and admissions. Anthony Haynes said this came up last year and that the university currently has numerous mechanisms in place to ensure that non-US citizens have proper documentation. The university should not be put in the position of enforcing immigration regulations.

There was some discussion about how to engage in lobbying activities as a university. Hank Dye said that the Alumni Legislative Council is an important resource to assist in communications with legislators. He also said that the System Relations Committee could work with this group and will send Beauvais Lyons contact information.

Candace White asked about the revenue side. Anthony Haynes said that he regards tax reform as politically impractical. He is also concerned about how the lack of cost containment in the health care proposal will impact the state budget in the future.

There was some discussion about funding of higher education within the context of the state budget allocation process, which gives universities little control over their budgets.

Russ Hirst, who teaches rhetoric, suggested that when discussing the role of the faculty with legislators it might be best to use a new set of terms. He said that he would compile some suggestions on how to reframe the semantics. Anthony Haynes agreed and looked forward to his suggestions.

Beauvais Lyons said that he hoped we will continue to work together as the legislative session approaches.

3. Setting the agenda and dates for Spring Meetings. Beauvais will reserve the following dates for meetings next semester: Monday January 25, Monday February 22, Monday March 29, and Monday April 26, 2010.

The January meeting will be devoted to meeting with some members of the Athletics Task Force that is charged with looking at whether athletics is a campus or system operation.

4. Adjournment at 3:15pm

