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Faculty Senate - January 11, 2010 University System Relations

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**University System Relations Committee Meeting
January 11, 2010, University Center Chickasaw (218), 2:00-3:00PM**

MINUTES

Members: Beauvais Lyons (Chair), David Atkins, Russel Hirst, Dan Murphy (FAR), John Nolt, Candace White, and Svetlana Zivanovic.

Members Absent: Greer Fox, John Lounsbury,

Invited Guests: Todd Diacon, Chair of the Taskforce for Athletic Reporting Alignment

1. Approval of the Minutes from November 2, 2009 posted at:
http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/System_Relations_11-02-09.pdf
Approved by consensus
2. Discussion of the work of the Taskforce for Athletic Reporting Alignment. Todd Diacon talked about the composition and charge of the task force. At their first meeting they looked at reporting lines at other institutions, including the University of South Carolina (President/Chancellor), University of Missouri (Formerly Chancellor and now President, then back to Chancellor following NCAA violations), and University of Colorado (also with a historically linked campus/system relationship with Athletics reporting to the system until major recruiting violations). Based on communications on the Faculty Athletics representative Listserv no other institution that Todd is aware of has Athletics reporting to the system. Candace shared her knowledge about the history of how the reporting lines shifted to the system under President Andy Holt. At their second meeting the task force received reports from the Provost, Budget and Finance, University Counsel, Public Relations, Student Services, Athletics Media relations and Athletics Development. Dan Murphy said one of the interesting issues is that people assume there is a firewall between Athletics and campus finances. Presently Men's Athletics exists as an auxiliary enterprise with UTK and Women's Athletics is within the E&G budget of the Knoxville campus. As part of the work of the task force, Todd Diacon asked each of the units to explain what they do now, and what would change with new reporting lines. While most would remain as the same, university relations and development might be impacted most. Public Relations wants one person as the "go-to" individual. In early February there will be presentations by Chancellor Cheek and Senate President Boulet. The task force will make its final decision at their meeting in early March.

Svetlana Zivanovic asked what the position of Athletics is on the reporting lines. Todd Diacon said that Athletics does not have a position on this matter. Candace White talked about the symbolic importance of this decision for

asserting the flagship status of the UTK campus. She asked where the opposition is to changing the reporting lines?

Todd Diacon stated that System-level Public Relation believes the current alignment enhances Legislative relations and enhances development at the system level. Beauvais Lyons expressed concern about how Athletics dominates public relations, such as the Alumnus magazines to the detriment of research, teaching and service that is taking place on the campuses. Dan Murphy expressed concern regarding the financial reporting at present becomes very complex with system and campus relations. Todd said the institution is primarily concerned with institutional control over the Athletics programs. Tim Rogers, Mike Hamilton, and Joan Cronin stated that the current reporting lines limit communications.

Russel Hirst asked if there is anything our committee could do as part of this process. Todd Diacon said that the faculty should take a clear position on the issue, based on a set of reasons. Todd Diacon stated that this is not just about Athletics, but is about campus/system relations more broadly.

3. Future Meeting dates: Monday February 22 (teleconference meeting with Jim Murphy), Monday March 29 (possibly with State Legislators), and Monday April 26, 2010 (to be determined). In response to a suggestion from John Nolt, Beauvais will request the weekly Legislative update through Anthony Haynes' office.
4. Adjournment at 3:05pm.