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Faculty Senate - October 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
October 19, 2009

Absent: Brian Ambroziak, Lt. Col. Michael Angle, David Atkins*, Roberto Benson, Caula Beyl, Bill Blass, Doug Blaze, Bill Bradshaw, Cathy Cochran*, Linden Craig, Paul Crilly, Steven Dandaneau, Jim Drake, Jerzy Dydak, Russel Hirst, Roxanne Hovland, Robert Jones, Yuri Kamychkov, Jeff Kovac, Norman Magden, Mary McAlpin, Lane Morris, Trena Paulus, Jay Pfaffman, W. Tim Rogers, Rupy Sawhney, Montgomery Smith, Edgar Stach, Marlys Staudt, Carrie Stephens, Sam Swan, Patricia Tithof, Klaus van den Berg, Scott Wall, Peiling Wang, Pia Wood, Yang Zhong, Svetlana Zivanovic

*Alternate Senators: Jeanine Williamson for David Atkins, Carol Collins for Cathy Cochran

T. Boulet called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of a Quorum (S. Kurth)

S. Kurth reported a quorum was present.

Senate President's Report (T. Boulet)

T. Boulet announced that he had distributed his report electronically. There were no questions about it.

Provost's Report (S. Martin)

Provost Martin reported that the Chancellor was out of town. She said Boulet had asked about the SACS accreditation process. Martin reported that a mini evaluation was scheduled for late 2010 or early 2011. M. Albrecht is chairing the committee. An elaborate website on campus compliance is being developed. It will certify institutional progress on the Quality Enhancement Program, Ready for the World, which is focusing more on curricular integration. She noted Boulet also asked about the Academic Efficiency and Effectiveness Task Force. The Chancellor is interested in improving the 4-year graduation rate, e.g., by removing bottlenecks. Among the issues being explored:

- Computerized prerequisite checking.
- The impact of the current course drop policy on student persistence and planning.
- Use of a tracking system similar to the one at the University of Florida that guides students to courses that move them to degree completion.
- Availability of Hope scholarships for summer courses.

Lyons said that S. Gardial had brought Fullbright awardees to a meeting. During that meeting there was a broader discussion that he asked Martin to comment on. Martin said the group met to discuss faculty that had achieved honors. A document was produced that was subsequently reviewed by the Council of Deans. She said she would share the document with the Senate. T. Wang said the College of Engineering wanted to work with area high schools to increase the readiness of entering students, as one-third of entering first year engineering students were not prepared for the first math course (lack adequate calculus preparation). She proposed perhaps having summer coursework for them.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the September 14, 2009, Faculty Senate meeting were amended to delete "Mertz called the question" on p. 7. Boulet said S. Winston would be asked to add the names of alternates

who attended the meeting. B. Lyons moved approval of the amended minutes and D. Bruce seconded the motion. Minutes approved as amended.

Faculty Senate Executive Council Meeting

The minutes of the October 5, 2009, meeting of the Executive Council were not yet available.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Graduate Council Minutes (V. Anfara)

V. Anfara highlighted the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting, of the Graduate Council. The Curriculum Committee approved changes for the College of Arts and Sciences (e.g., course titles). The Credentials Committee approved people for doctoral direction status. The Graduate Deans developed a template for all departmental graduate student manuals. After the manuals are revised, they would be submitted to the Graduate School. Minutes approved.

Undergraduate Council Minutes (D. Thompson)

D. Thompson noted the committee reports in the September 8, 2009, minutes. The Advising Committee report describes Student Success initiatives. She mentioned the process for documentation of online catalog revisions, a process for moving revisions to the Undergraduate Council for approval and providing written confirmation. Previously the collegiate membership of the Council was based on the number of degrees granted by a college in the previous year. To stabilize the 3-year terms on the Council, the 3-year average of degrees granted by a college will be used. Boulet commented that the electronic catalog does not have page numbers. He asked whether all references to pages had been removed from the electronic catalog. Thompson said she did not know. Minutes approved.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Resolution for Carl Pierce

C. Pierce expressed his regrets at not being at the September meeting and his thanks for the recognition the Senate gave him at that meeting. He noted that service on the Senate provided the opportunity to work with faculty across the campus.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Senate Calendar 2009-2010 (J. Heminway)

J. Heminway distributed a proposed calendar for Senate meetings. There was no discussion. The proposed calendar was moved and seconded. Motion approved.

Presentation of Banner (L. Painter)

L. Painter reviewed the background of the Banner system on the campus. Financial Aid went on Banner in 1999. In October 2006 the University of Tennessee system (UT) decreed that all campuses move to Banner. Banner was to be adopted with no baseline modifications; instead practices would have to be changed to fit the software.

She noted that the SIS system involved, for example, curriculum, recruiting, accounts receivable and room scheduling. She briefly discussed the integration of systems. A tentative timeline for switching systems has been established, e.g., admissions in June 2010 and financial aid in January 2011. The UT system agreed to provide funding for common core costs.

Information is available at <http://tennessee.edu/banner>. One of the issues is conversion of student records. The records of any student with a term record from fall 1998 forward will be converted. Other records in SIS will be imaged rather than converted. They are looking at policies that may be problematic, e.g., readmissions, repeated courses, and 400 level courses taken for graduate credit.

She summarized various benefits:

- Money will be saved by moving off SIS mainframe.
- Risk reduction.
- Greater commonality/uniformity
- Additional functions: prerequisite and co-requisite checking.
- Enhanced reporting capabilities.

Lyons asked whether there would be any price break as Banner had been implemented at the Martin and Chattanooga campuses. Painter replied that there were advantages. She suggested C. Cimino was the best person to answer the question.

Lyons asked whether departments would receive electronic letters of recommendation for graduate program applicants. Painter said currently imaging was through college net and does not include letters of recommendation. In phase two they perhaps could be included. K. Reed said they were working on college net. D. Birdwell asked what was the compatibility experience with the Mac platform. Painter said she would check. Birdwell commented that the "world" would be on Banner. He asked what was being done about integrity and continuity.

Announcements (T. Boulet)

Boulet reported that the Appeals Committee was shorthanded, so he would be contacting those who indicated it was their 2nd or 3rd choice to ask them to serve. He also noted that he had asked for the Senate Listserv to be set as a discussion forum, i.e., replies would go to everyone. He received comments from two people expressing a preference for having it set so that replies would not go to everyone. Based on a show of hands it was agreed that it would be reset so that replies would only go to the person who sent a message.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Birdwell, seconded by J. Grant, was approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kurth, Secretary