

## **MINUTES**

### **UTC Full Faculty Meeting September 26, 2022**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by UTC Faculty Senate President Jennifer Boyd at 3:01 pm. She described the role of UTC faculty in shared governance and informed faculty of their representation the UTC Faculty Senate.

#### **2. Approval of the Minutes**

President Boyd asked for approval of the minutes from the September 15, 2022 Meeting. Jack Zibluk approved and Jenn Stewart seconded the motion. There were 52 approvals, 10 abstentions, none opposed. The minutes were approved.

#### **3. Unfinished Business**

President Boyd described the current situation with General Education at UTC. Currently, we need to recertify courses associated with the previous General Education program that were scheduled for recertification this year. We also need to certify courses that will be associated with the new General Education program that was approved in May 2022 so that they are active when the new General Education program goes into effect in AY 2023-24. Vice Provost Laura Ingraham and General Education Committee Chair Jenn Stewart describe that recertification and certification work will soon move to the General Education Committee. They described that General Education courses that are undergoing recertification require one form in Curriculum, while new courses that are being certified need both a new course form and a General Education category form. Stewart is expecting the the Committee will review ~300 forms this year. There were no questions from faculty.

#### **4. Administrative Reports**

##### **a. Chancellor Steven Angle**

Chancellor Angle explained that the reduced enrollment should result in some budget cuts, but they should be able to be absorbed through traditional channels. Retention seems to be a larger issue to enrollment than recruiting itself. Our strategic plan has moderate enrollment growth built into it, and we are looking and managing growth slowly for the future.

Chancellor Angle reported that the search for Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration will likely include visits by finalist candidates campus the week of October 10 (prospectively). There will be an open forum with candidates during their visits.

**b. Provost Jerry Hale**

Provost Hale described that tenure-track faculty may have up to a two-year extension for the tenure and promotion period. One may change their mind and go up, even if they requested an extension and it does not count as going up early.

Provost Hale explained that UTC is clarifying course modalities in response to a UT System audit on course fees. How we define modalities is not final at this time, but will go to various governance bodies soon.

Provost Hale described that UTC is starting a University High School with the Hamilton County Department of Education that expects a cohort of 50 high-performing students during its first two years.

Provost Hale informed faculty that the Disability Resource Center now requires professional diagnoses for disabilities/illnesses that require academic accommodation.

Provost Hale sent reports on workload to the Senate Executive Committee as a starting point to work out issues on faculty workload and potentially help to develop policy.

**c. Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success Stacie Grisham, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Lee Pierce**

Associate Vice Chancellors Grisham and Piece described that our fall 2021 to fall 2022 retention rate is 72% and that much of our enrollment issues center on retention. In addition, we experienced an 8% percent increase in new freshman from fall 2021. They explained that their office is doing everything that it can to attract and find transfer students, as well as retaining freshmen, to maintain enrollment.

**d. Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Vicki Farnsworth**

Interim Vice Chancellor Farnsworth explained that budget scenarios of 2.8% reduction have been run. UTC is waiting for a new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration (search in process) to explore our budget situation.

**e. Provost Hale (as a proxy for SACSCOC Reaffirmation Coordinator Theresa Liedtka)**

Provost Hale explained that our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a 10-year commitment to SACSCOC to enhance students success. We have chosen cohort learning, such as additional residential learning communities and connections between faculty members and students for our QEP. SACSCOC representatives will visit campus in spring 2023. More details are to follow, and there will be road shows on possibilities for implementing our QEP through cohort learning experiences

## 5. Faculty Senate Reports

### a. Committee Work

President Boyd reported that the Faculty Grants Committee recently concluded the its recommendations for the fall 2022 round of Faculty Grants. The Committee recommended that 16 out of 24 total propopsals be funded for a total of \$25K. The Committee reported that 30% of the proposal contained budget errors that they had to correct and encouraged faculty applying for Faculty Grants to carefully check their budgets.

Boyd reported that the Non-tenure Track Faculty Committee will be hosting Town Hall meetings on 10/3 at 11am and 10/6 at 4pm by Zoom. These meetings will provide opportunities for NTT faculty to bring their concerns to the Committee.

Boyd reported that the Faculty Handbook Committee is working on language about faculty evaluation to go before the Senate.

On behalf of the Faculty Rating of Administration Committee, Boyd reminded faculty to complete the rating survey that will be circulated in mid to late October.

President Boyd announced that she is putting together an *ad hoc* committee to explore best practices and guidelines for supporting faculty work/life balance in response to recent survey responses that suggest that finding such balance is an issue for our faculty.

### b. UT System and State Representation

Faculty Senate President Jennifer Boyd and Felicia McGhee (Communication) are serving as our campus representatives to the University Faculty Council, which confers with, advises, and communicates with UT System Administration and the UT System President Randy Boyd on System-wide matters of interest to the campus faculties.

Jennfer Boyd reported that the UFC met recently with UT President Randy Boyd. He asked for faculty input on online education, community college partnerships, and System-level transparency. UT System Counsel is currently working on a new Code of Conduct that will be disseminated to Faculty Senates in the near future. The UFC voted to forward a 9-month Faculty Sick Leave Policy to President Randy Boyd for consideration.

Faculty Senate President Jennifer Boyd and President-Elect Don Reising are serving as our campus representatives to the Tennessee Faculty University Senates (TUFS). TUFS is an association of the Faculty Senates of the ten four-year public universities in Tennessee. It represents the interests of over 10,000 faculty members across the state. Boyd and Reising will attend a TUFS meeting next weekend (9/30-10/1). Items on the agenda include engaging faculty in shared governance; diversity, equity, and inclusion in shared governance, budget transparency, accessibility of TUFS meetings, and post-tenure review practices.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Welcome New Faculty**

Representatives from the Colleges and the Library introduced faculty who are new to UTC this fall. Our newest colleagues include 33 new faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences, five new faculty members of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, 10 new faculty members in the the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies, three new faculty members in the Library, and six new faculty members in the Rollins College of Business.

### **b. Ombudsperson Vacancy**

Chief of Staff David Steele informed faculty of the process of hiring a new UTC Faculty Ombudsperson. The position was vacated by Joanie Sompayrac (Accounting) during summer 2022. Steele explained that UTC has revised the Ombudsperson position into a full-time role and is putting a structure for reporting in place. While the position is vacant, faculty were encouraged to bring their concerns directly to Steele, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement Stacy Lightfood, or UTC General Counsel Yousef Hamadeh.

### **c. Faculty Wellness Initiatives**

Employee Wellness Coordinator Dawn Ford described new initiatives at UTC focused on employee wellness, including programs and activities. Ford is working on ways to get the word out about these programs and activities to faculty through listservs and other means of communication on campus.

## **7. Faculty Concerns**

Multiple faculty shared concerns about faculty communications through email. Some cited issues with being able to access listservs to disseminate information to their colleagues. Others cited issues with not being included in communications sent through listservs. President Boyd told faculty that she would bring this up with executive administration to try to resolve these issues.

## **8. Announcements**

Walker Center for Teaching and Learning Director Victoria Bryan told faculty about resources available to them through the WCTL, including both organized programming and one-on-one assistance with course development and delivery. She encouraged faculty to reach out to her for more information.

President Boyd announced that the next meeting of the UTC Faculty Senate will be on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 3:10 pm and that the next full faculty meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 3 pm. Both meetings will be hosted in Zoom.