

**UTC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2023**  
**AY 2023-24**

**Presiding:** Faculty Senate President Donald Reising  
**Minutes:** Faculty Senate Secretary Hannah Wakefield

*(attendance follows the minutes)*

**1) Call to Order**

- a) 3:10pm Don Reising calls to order and welcomes SGA Vice President
- b) Welcome new FS Members

**2) Approval of the Minutes from the August 24, 2023 meeting**

- a) Crawford moves, and Walsh seconds: 33-0-1

**3) Unfinished Business**

**a) Ombudsperson**

- i) **Search Committee Chair, Shewanee Howard-Baptiste:** The search committee has convened twice now to move forward with reviewing applicants for that position. An interim person has been hired to serve in this capacity to support faculty and our campus. The committee hopes to start reviewing those applications in the next few weeks.
- ii) **Chief of Staff David Steele:** We have an arrangement in place with our colleagues at UT Knoxville with their ombuds office which includes two full-time ombudspersons. Their office will provide interim services for us until we have our own full-time ombudsperson in place. They have been working with our IT and web team to get the content on the website updated. There will be a UTC phone number for faculty to reach that office. Faculty will be able to book in-person and Zoom appointments using a UTC email address. They're also going to have some after hours options. These interim ombuds services will launch soon.

**b) Open Faculty Senate and Other Seats and Elections**

- o The Faculty Senate welcomes new representatives as of Fall 2023
  - Dr. Chandler Harriss, At-Large Associate Professor
  - Dr. Deborah McAllister, At-Large Full Professor
  - Dr. Craig Laing, Behavioral Sciences TT Division
  - Dr. Julie Legg, CHEPS NTT Division
  - Mr. Matt Evans, Humanities NTT Division
- o One At-Large Associate Professor seat is still open, as is the Math and Sciences Tenure-Track Division seat. Please contact President Don Reising or Secretary Wakefield if you (or someone you know) would like to serve in either of these roles.
- o Congratulations and thanks to Marcus Mauldin, UTC's new University Faculty Council representative.
- o Congratulations and thanks to Joanie Sompayrac and Kenyon Wilson, our new FARC representatives.
- o The election for CECS Tenure-Track Division is in a runoff, which ends on September 28.

- Please vote in the election for two adjunct faculty representatives. Voting for the adjunct election closes on September 28.

**c) Canvas Full Faculty Membership**

President Reising reported that he worked with Faculty Senate Secretary Hannah Wakefield and Past President Jennifer Boyd recently to update membership in the Full Faculty UTC Learn page. He is working with various offices around campus to streamline this process in the future. Faculty should notify Faculty Senate representatives or the FS Executive team if they or their constituents do not have access.

**d) College and Lower Leadership Concern**

i) President Reising revisited a faculty member concern that was raised at the last Senate meeting. The concern was that the lack of clear processes and procedures for appointments to lower-level leadership positions was preventing a diverse range of candidates for those positions. President Reising reported that the Faculty Senate Executive team raised this issue at the September Executive Leadership Team meeting, and Provost Hale plans to address this issue with the Council of Academic Department Heads and the Deans' Council.

**4) New Business:** No new business to report.

**5) Committee Reports**

**a) Update of Handbook**

Faculty Senate Vice President Jaclyn Michael reported that the Handbook Committee has met. The committee has been working on some possible changes to the Faculty Senate bylaws that they will bring to the Senate when ready. One of the committee's long-term projects includes a focus group approach to looking at individual chapters of the handbook to get feedback for any possible revisions. Focus group sessions will be held on campus as well as in a hybrid format for those who cannot join in person. Look for information about these sessions, which are tentatively slated for late October or early November. Please email Faculty Senate Vice President Jaclyn Michael at [Jaclyn-michael@utc.edu](mailto:Jaclyn-michael@utc.edu) with any suggestions or feedback about the Handbook.

**b) Faculty Development Grants**

President Reising reported that the Faculty Development Grants Committee elected a secretary (Dr. Chandra Ward) and a chair-elect (Dr. Derek Liuzzo). The committee reviewed and evaluated 15 total applicants and recommended funding 14. One of the 15 was an invalid application. Even though there were some issues with the original deadline, and some faculty missed that deadline, because of the availability of funds those late applicants were still accepted and reviewed.

**c) Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**

In Dr. Lane Wilkinson's absence due to a scheduling conflict, President Reising made faculty aware of the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for curriculum proposal. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday, faculty should strive to complete and submit proposals by October 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Beth Crawford, Chair of CHEPS Curriculum Committee, clarified that the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline is the deadline for approval of proposals by department heads, so faculty should budget enough time to get through the department head stage before the October 15 deadline.

**6) Administrative Reports**

**a) Chancellor Steven Angle**

Chancellor Angle was on his way back from Nashville and not able to join the meeting.

**b) Provost Jerry Hale**

- i) Provost Hale introduced Dr. Delight Yokley, Assistant Provost for Student Success. Assistant Provost Yokley will be directing our QEP.
- ii) Provost Hale reminded faculty of the recent email related to mandatory compliance trainings. HR has shared that redundancies in the training have been removed, and a mandatory compliance training related to the Americans for Disabilities Acts and the Disability Resource Center has been added. Total training time is 3.5 hours long. The deadline to complete the compliance training is end of day on December 31. Provost Hale recommended beginning the training now and progressing through it over the next three months. Provost Hale communicated to the Senate and asked Senators to communicate to constituents that the training is mandatory. If training has not been completed, faculty should not expect to be awarded meets or exceeds expectations for the year. Two issues from last year: One issue was related to inaccuracies in the list of faculty and staff required to complete the training. If those in leadership roles notice inaccuracies in the list, they should notify Provost Hale's office. Another issue was that browsers would close during the training. If this occurs, try a different browser and then reach out to Provost Hale, who will reach out to IT.
- iii) Academic Calendar Committee: Provost Hale drew attention to the academic calendar survey that came out via email and asked faculty to take the survey. The survey is an important part of the Total Organizational Health Initiative and addresses issues such as aligning the UTC calendar with the Hamilton County Schools calendar.
- iv) Provost Hale referred faculty to an e-mail from Dr. Sherry Marlow Ormsby about a faculty learning community to offer training in proposing new academic programs to help faculty reduce the time from program proposal to approval. Departments working to propose new academic programs should send representation to this faculty learning community in order to reduce time in getting programs approved.

**7) Faculty Concerns**

**a) Early and available supporting documentation for Administrative Reports**

Members of the Faculty Senate requested materials for administrative reports in advance review those materials beforehand so they can ask questions and be better prepared. President Reising reported that he discussed this in the Executive Leadership Team meeting, and the administration will work to send material in advance where possible.

**b) Other concerns**

- i) **Wi-Fi and technology challenges among students:** Representative Dunstan McNutt shared that in the library and in some classrooms students are having an increasingly difficult time accessing Internet Wi-Fi from either their phones or their laptops. The many steps in the process of registration results in technology that is essentially not functional for students. Representative McNutt speculated that this might be an issue of the way that IP addresses are distributed and asked whether improvements might be made. Representative Deborah McAllister added that she has also had trouble with the wi-fi in her office. Vice Chancellor Vicki Farnsworth responded by saying that she will look into it and contact those having difficulty and will report back.
- ii) **Insufficient faculty compensation and travel funding:** Representative Emma McDonnell shared that she has been hearing concerns that faculty compensation is not keeping up with inflation. Travel budgets likewise no longer seem to reflect the

actual cost of travel. Representative McDonnell requested that administration respond to both issues regarding plans to address these concerns.

**8) Announcements**

- a) Next Faculty Senate meeting: Oct 19, 2023, 3:10pm
- b) Full Faculty Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 3pm
  - i) Full Faculty Meeting minutes: Meeting minutes from the Full Faculty Meeting have been posted on the Faculty Senate website along with the recording of the meeting.
- c) Please fill out Academic Calendar Survey.
- d) Open Senate seats: contact President Don Reising or Secretary Wakefield with interest in serving in Faculty Senate.

**9) Adjournment:**

- a) Beth Crawford moves, Jessica Taylor seconds. Meeting adjourned 3:49pm.

Abrha	Wolday	X
Baker	Sybil	
Boyd	Jennifer	X
Caskey	Jodi	X
Crawford	Beth	X
Davenport	Stephan	X
DePrez	Bernadette	X
Einstein	Sarah	
Epperson	Brooke	X
Evans	Matthew	X
Fleming	Rachel	X
Franklin	Alycia	X
Goulet	Ron	X
Grubb	Matthew	
Guinn	Cherry	X
Harbison	John	X
Harris	Lee	X
Harriss	Chandler	X
Hogg	Jennifer	X
Holcomb	Hadley	X
Huber	Thomas	X
Ibrahim	Hamby	X
Jeffers	Gaye	X

Kaplanoglu	Erkan	X
Kozek	Mark	X
Laing	Craig	X
Legg	Julie	X
Littleton	Chad	X
Ma	Ziwei	X
Manning-Berg	Ashley	
McAllister	Deborah	X
McDonnell	Emma	X
McElrone	Marissa	X
McNutt	Dunstan	X
Michael	Jaclyn	X
Montgomery	Callie	X
Park	Han	X
Parks	Josh	X
Purkey	Lyn	X
Reising	Don	X
Strickland	Bryan	
Strickler	Jeremy	X
Taylor	Jessica	X
Treat	Sarah	X
Van Buren	Harry	X
Vincent	Nishani	X
Wakefield	Hannah	X
Walsh	Darrell	X
Xie	Mengjun	
Zibluk	Jack	X