

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

University Planning and Resources Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, February 20, 2015 – 1:30pm  
UC Foundation Room, University Center

## MEETING NOTES

Dr. Richard Brown welcomed the group and asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 13, 2015. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- I. There was brief discussion about an email that was sent to the faculty by a faculty member about the Budget Reallocation process. Dr. Ainsworth noted that most of the recommendations that were in the original Academic Affairs proposal, presented to UPRAC on January 30<sup>th</sup>, came directly from recommendations made by the deans. Dr. Ainsworth then reminded the group that the Deans' Council discussed and approved all Academic Affairs recommendations and a revised proposal was presented on February 13th.
- II. Brian O'Leary, Chair of the Council of Academic Department Heads made a presentation regarding his meeting with the Dean and department heads of the College of Arts and Sciences. He presented a PowerPoint that discussed in detail the department heads' comments on Academic Affairs' proposed changes. He stated that the campus is confused about what UPRAC is and its perceived secrecy. It was noted that the lack of campus-wide discussion about UPRAC's activities was meant to lessen angst, but that not disclosing information had caused just that.
  - a. STEM: Brian O'Leary presented that the department heads of the College of Arts and Sciences believe that STEM should remain in the college or at least that the current majors should be allowed to complete the program as it exists today. The department heads are concerned that a move to the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies could disrupt the curricula in STEM departments and that the elimination of mentor teachers is unwise. In response, it was noted that majors will not change and the STEM courses would still be taught by the same instructors. The only thing that would change would be the education courses and the mentor teachers - because licensing has become an issue. Dr. Ainsworth noted that Dr. Valerie Rutledge had informed him that Hamilton County has stated that if the way STEM wishes to place their students does not change the County will no longer work with UTC education majors in Hamilton County schools. UPRAC then voted by secret ballot. Drs. Ainsworth and Brown abstained. Vote: 12- Yes, 1- No, 3- Abstain (not including the UPRAC co-chairs).
  - b. Performing Arts: this was briefly discussed, but discussion was ended because the Academic Affairs proposal was supposed to read "School of the Performing

Arts,” not “Department of the Performing Arts” – which was the objection of the department heads.

- c. Art and SCEA: Brian O’Leary presented that Art and SCEA have unique missions and it would be difficult to merge administrative assistants. Also, SCEA funding is through an endowment and it is unclear where savings would come from. The response to these issues was that although SCEA is funded through an endowment, it is currently spending into the endowment’s corpus. The savings that result from the Academic Affairs’ proposed changes will prevent the spending of the corpus so that the endowment lasts longer. UPRAC then discussed the administrative assistant issue briefly and noted that perhaps a graduate or student assistant could help with the overflow. UPRAC then voted by secret ballot. Drs. Ainsworth and Brown abstained. Vote: 14- Yes, 2- No, 0- Abstain (not including the UPRAC co-chairs).
- d. Philosophy and MCLL: The feedback presented by Brian O’Leary was that these are very different programs and that a merger would disenfranchise and marginalize committed faculty. Also, both programs have growth plans and should be given time to grow before a merger. UPRAC discussed where the savings were coming from through this proposal- since the departments already share an administrative assistant. It was noted that through the proposal, \$16,000 would be saved if the departments do not merge but still share an administrative assistant. It was also noted that the department head of Philosophy and Religion is tenured in MCLL, implying that there is indeed some overlap between the two departments. UPRAC then voted by secret ballot. Drs. Ainsworth and Brown abstained. Vote: 13- Yes, 4- No, 0- Abstain (not including the UPRAC co-chairs).
- e. Physics, Geology and Astronomy: The input received from the department heads was that the current Academic Affairs proposal is a mistake, would be detrimental and doesn’t provide cost savings. Biology and Environmental Science are already large departments and a merger would require additional coordinators and administrative assistants- thus canceling merger savings. Also, it was noted that splitting physics and astronomy does not make sense for the programs and moving from 3 to 2 departments will not work. UPRAC began this discussion and noted the disagreement with splitting physics and astronomy. There was a question about combining all of PGA with Chemistry. Discussion was then tabled and a vote was not taken because the campus closed due to weather and the meeting ended early. This will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.