

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

March 1, 2013
Chattanooga, Tennessee

The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met at 8:30 am EST, on Friday, March 1, 2013, in the University Center on the campus of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spruell Driver called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

II. ROLL CALL

Dr. Katie High called the roll.

The following committee members were present:

Mr. Spruell Driver
Dr. Joseph DiPietro
Ms. Teresa Fowler
Mr. John Foy
Ms. Monice Hagler
The Honorable Julius Johnson
Dr. Rich Rhoda
Mr. Karl Schledwitz
Mr. Shalin Shah
Mr. Don Stansberry
Dr. Victoria Steinberg
Mr. Tommy Whittaker
Dr. Janet Wilbert

The following Non-voting Faculty and Student Representatives were present:

Mr. Bradley Bell
Dr. Deborah McAllister
Dr. Robert Nanney
Mr. Adam Roddy

Mr. James Rogers
Mr. Todd Sanders
Dr. Steve Thomas
Ms. Shelbey Thompson
Dr. Thad Wilson

The following were absent:

Mr. Matthew Barnes
Commissioner Kevin Huffman
Mr. Alex Wilson

Dr. High announced that a quorum was present. Chairman Driver welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Chairman Driver entertained a motion to approve the November 9, 2012 minutes.

Trustee Fowler moved approval, Trustee Foy seconded, and the motion carried.

IV. OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Driver reported that President DiPietro had announced at the January 28, 2013 meeting of the Executive and Compensation Committee that he has appointed Dr. High Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, removing her interim status in that position. Chair Driver congratulated Dr. High and expressed appreciation for her excellent work with the Committee.

V. RATING SCALE FOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS OF TENURED FACULTY AND MINOR CLARIFYING REVISIONS TO THE TENURE POLICY

Dr. High explained that the item relates to the Board policy that governs the evaluation of tenured faculty. UTK was given Board approval to pilot an evaluation program that includes five ratings categories, rather than the four categories currently specified in the Board policy.

Over the past year, faculty and administrators have conducted a comprehensive review of the policies and brought forward three proposed revisions.

Revisions 1 and 3 provide clarity to the policy. Revision 2 will allow UT Knoxville to implement the five category performance rating that has been piloted for the last two years and will allow the other campuses to develop, if appropriate, performance rating scales specific to their campus.

All changes to the policy have been endorsed by faculty senates, academic officers and chancellors on each of the campuses. They have also been reviewed by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and General Counsel's Office.

Dr. Wilson requested clarification regarding the change of language from means and metrics, used in faculty evaluation, to substantive performance criteria and whether it was meant to be the same language. He remarked that his concern is that faculty and specific units or departments have input into the criteria for evaluation of faculty.

Dr. High stated that the intent of the revision is to allow for shared governance and faculty involvement in the development of performance criteria.

Trustee Wilbert moved that the proposed revisions to the Tenure Policy be approved as presented in the meeting materials (Exhibit 1). The motion was seconded by Trustee Foy, and the motion carried.

VI. REVISION TO UT KNOXVILLE FACULTY HANDBOOK CONCERNING THE RATING SCALE FOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Dr. High explained that the proposed revision to the UT Knoxville Faculty Handbook would make permanent the five-point review scale UT Knoxville has been piloting since 2009.

The proposed revisions were reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate, Chancellor Cheek, and Chancellor Arrington. The proposed revisions have been further reviewed and are recommended for approval by the General Counsel and Secretary, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, and the President.

Trustee Wilbert moved that the proposed revision of the UT Knoxville Faculty Handbook concerning the rating scale for annual performance reviews (Exhibit 2) be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Foy, and the motion carried.

VII. GRANT OF TENURE TO A UT KNOXVILLE FACULTY MEMBER UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURES

Dr. High explained that President DiPietro was recommending the granting of tenure under the expedited procedures for Terri Dobbins Baxter, J.D., who has accepted a position of Professor in the College of Law. Dr. High provided additional background information about Professor Dobbins, noting that the unanimous vote of the tenured law faculty, along with the strong support of the Dean, strongly warrant her being awarded tenure at UT Knoxville.

Trustee Murphy, as an alumnus of the UT Knoxville College of Law, stated his strong support for granting tenure to Professor Baxter.

Trustee Foy moved that tenure be granted to Teri Dobbins Baxter, J.D., in her faculty appointment as Professor of Law at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (Exhibit 3), which was seconded by Trustee Fowler. The motion carried.

VIII. HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE, UTK

Chancellor Cheek presented the proposal to award the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws to Mr. John Seigenthaler at the Spring 2013 commencement ceremony for the College of Law.

The proposed honorary degree was approved through established campus procedures in accordance with the Board Policy on Honorary Degrees.

Trustee Murphy announced that he would abstain from the vote because he is related to Mr. Siegenthaler.

Trustee Stansberry moved that an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree be awarded to Mr. John Seigenthaler (Exhibit 4). The motion was seconded by Trustee Schledwitz and carried.

IX. HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE MUSICAL LETTERS DEGREE, UTK

Chancellor Cheek presented the proposal for UT Knoxville to award the degree of Honorary Doctor of Humane Musical Letters to Ms. Mary Costa at the Spring 2013 commencement ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences. The

proposal to award this honorary degree was approved through established campus procedures in accordance with the Board Policy on Honorary Degrees.

Trustee Steinberg moved that an Honorary Doctor of Humane and Musical Letters degree be awarded to Ms. Mary Costa (Exhibit 5). Trustee Foy seconded, and the motion carried.

X. HONORARY BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE, UTC

Interim Chancellor Bogue presented the proposal for UT Chattanooga to award an Honorary Bachelor's Degree in Community Service to Mr. Lewis "Lewie" Card, Jr. at the Spring 2013 commencement ceremony. The proposal to award this honorary degree was approved through established campus procedures in accordance with the Board Policy on Honorary Degrees.

Trustee Foy moved that an Honorary Bachelor's Degree in Community Service from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga be awarded to Mr. Lewis "Lewie" Card, Jr. (Exhibit 6). Trustee Stansberry seconded, and the motion carried.

XI. REVISED UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UT MARTIN

Chancellor Rakes of UT Martin presented the following proposed revisions to the regular undergraduate admission requirements for UT Martin:

Current regular admission requirements:

21 ACT and GPA of 2.5

Or

18 ACT and GPA

Proposed admission requirements:

21 ACT and GPA of 2.7

Or

19 ACT and GPA of 3.0

The changes were recommended by the faculty and administration and will go into effect in the Fall of 2014.

Trustee Fowler commented that, as a student at UT Martin, she fully supports the revision to the requirements, and moved that the revised undergraduate

admission requirements at UT Martin be approved as presented in the meeting materials, to be effective beginning with the 2014 Fall Semester (Exhibit 7). Trustee Wilbert seconded the motion, and it carried.

President DiPietro commented that this change would move UT Martin up among its peers.

XII. REPORT OF UT MARTIN GAP ANALYSIS

Chancellor Rakes introduced Dr. Robert Nanney, Chair of the Strategic Priorities Steering Committee, who presented the report of the UT Martin Gap Analysis project (Exhibit 8).

There was discussion about UT Martin's graduation rates and how UT Martin can improve those rates in spite of difficult economic circumstances and lack of preparation in the K-12 system.

The committee commended Chancellor Rakes and UT Martin for their successes and offered to continue to support the campus in their endeavors to improve student retention and graduation rates.

XIII. REPORT ON SUMMER SCHOOL AND CLASS SCHEDULE PATTERNS

Chairman Driver introduced Dr. Dennis Hengstler who provided an update on summer school enrollments (Exhibit 9) requested by the committee at the Fall Board meeting in 2012.

A chart showing class schedule patterns during summer was also included, but Dr. Hengstler did not present it during the meeting.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the subject of ways to increase summer school attendance and campus utilization. Dr. Hengstler suggested action to try to restore the use of Pell grants during summer terms.

Chairman Driver noted that the Chancellors have been asked to provide a written report to the Board prior to the June 2013 meeting on the subject of increasing summer enrollments.

Trustee Horne suggested that the system also study online education and how it can be better implemented.

Trustee Stansberry requested a study on the economics of graduation rates. What does a 1% increase in graduation rates equate to in dollar amounts through the funding formula?

Trustee Cates requested a report on the economic impact in terms of the state appropriations mechanisms as well as the overall economy of the state by students graduating earlier and entering the workforce.

XVI. UT PRESS PRESENTATION

Chairman Driver announced that, due to time constraints, this item was taken off the agenda.

XV. STUDENT PANEL ON UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Dr. Lane introduced the student representatives: Bradley Bell of UTC, Teresa Fowler of UT Martin, and Adam Roddy of UTK. Each student provided a brief personal story about their advising experience as a UT student.

A brief discussion about financial advising and how to encourage students to ask for help followed the students' presentations.

XVI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Driver adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katherine N. High
Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Student Success