

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

June 20, 2008
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee met at 12:30 EDT, Friday, June 20, 2008, on the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville, TN.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rhynette Hurd, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Dr. Katie High called the roll, and the following voting members were present:

Dr. Hurd
Ms. Blackburn
Mr. Cates
Ms. Castleman
Commissioner Givens
Ms. Loughry
Ms. McGruder
Mr. Schledwitz
Dr. Schommer

The following non-voting members were present:

Dr. Petersen
Mr. Batterson
Professor Harris
Professor Cook (for Professor Johnson, UTHSC)
Mr. Lipford
Professor Patterson
Mr. Wilcox

Hurd announced a quorum was present.

III. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hurd welcomed the committee members and reminded them of the importance of the work the committee does to ensure the University fulfills its core mission of training students and preparing them to enter the workforce. She suggested this committee is the “soul of what we do at UT.”

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2007, MEETING

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Schledwitz, seconded by Dr. Schommer, and approved unanimously.

V. UT’S ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – INFORMATION

Mr. Russ Coughenour, Director of Career Services at UT, Knoxville, made a presentation on UT’s role in workforce development. Mr. Coughenour stated that in the next five years, 20 percent of the country’s large employers will be losing upwards of 40 percent of their top-level talent due to retirement. UT students will be called upon to fill gaps in the workforce. UT students make great employees because they are technologically superior, culturally aware, and are knowledgeable workers.

Companies are constantly looking to recruit workers from UT. The top majors for recruitment are: accounting, logistics, engineering, architecture, education, social work, and various liberal arts and sciences.

Ms. Blackburn made a comment related to UT’s engineering department and competition from Tennessee Tech. She told the committee about a student who was planning to attend Tennessee Tech, but, after visiting UT Knoxville, made the decision to attend the Knoxville campus instead. She commended the engineering department for doing a great job at recruitment, and noted that the amenities of the Knoxville campus played a large role in the student’s decision.

VI. REPORT ON TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION PLANS

Dr. Phil Oldham, Provost at UT Chattanooga, reported on UTC’s articulation plan with Chattanooga State. UT Chattanooga will accept the general education requirements of students who have completed their Associate’s degree at Chattanooga State. He recommended that the UT system standardize its general education requirements for all campuses, and that these new requirements be in line with the TBR schools to facilitate community college students transferring to UT to earn their Bachelor’s degrees. He noted that this discussion should include considering common course numbering for the UT system.

Dr. Hurd asked about a bill requiring UT to work on articulation agreements, and asked if there was a deadline for finalizing plans to articulate community college students.

Dr. High responded that legislation passed in the last session that requires UT to work with THEC and TBR to come up with “universal transfer policies.” She mentioned that a “transfer and articulation summit” would be held with UT campus leadership and the TBR system, perhaps as early as this summer.

Dr. Ogg spoke about UT Martin’s transfer policies. UT Martin currently accepts general education requirements from community college students who have completed their Associate degree. Additionally, UT Martin accepts components of the general education requirements, even if a transfer student has not completed the Associate degree. Dr. Ogg believes this is a proactive way to encourage students to come to UT Martin from local community colleges.

Dr. Susan Martin reported on UT Knoxville’s proposal to streamline articulation. UT Knoxville wants to accept the general education component for students who have completed the Associate degree upon their transfer to UT Knoxville. There is a committee working on this, and they are moving toward a “simple and elegant solution to many of our articulation problems.” UTK is examining articulation paths for popular majors to produce schedules that would demonstrate the exact path to a Bachelor’s degree for community college students.

VII. REPORT ON SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ADMISSION POLICY

Dr. Cheryl Scheid made a presentation on UTHSC’s College of Dentistry Admissions policies. The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) has an agreement with Arkansas, dating back to 1948, that allows approximately 18 students from Arkansas to attend the College of Dentistry and pay in-state tuition (the remainder of the tuition is paid by the state of Arkansas). The College of Dentistry takes 80 students a year, and, of those, 52 are from Tennessee.

Scheid stated that \$1 million of the \$7.5 million that the College of Dentistry receives in tuition comes from Arkansas. Additionally, students from Arkansas have slightly higher GPAs (3.7) than students from elsewhere (3.5).

Scheid stated that she felt the College of Dentistry was meeting the needs of the state. More than 75 percent of dentists in Tennessee were trained at UT.

Mr. Karl Schledwitz asked Dr. Scheid how many Tennessee residents were turned down a year.

Dr. Scheid responded that the last 4-5 students admitted were right at the cut-off for admission. She mentioned that the college could improve its recruitment efforts in the eastern part of the state, which might increase in-state enrollment.

Schledwitz asked about the College of Dentistry mission of “meeting the needs of the state” and if we had a sufficient number of dentists in rural areas.

Scheid replied that students simply do not disperse to rural areas, perhaps because of the cost associated with setting up a dental practice. She mentioned that the College of Dentistry had increased its class size in the past to address the need for rural dentists; however, this did not result in a larger number of students choosing to practice in rural areas.

Dr. Cook (UTHSC) stated that the College of Medicine had tried a similar tactic to entice students to practice medicine in underserved rural areas. This plan failed, as over 50 percent of students chose a specialty other than primary care. Dr. Cook also mentioned that former Dean of the College of Dentistry, Bill Slagle, is currently in discussion with the Arkansas legislature regarding a \$2 million appropriation to renovate the dental building. He stated that there was an additional \$1 that is being sought from an Arkansas based company called Delta Dental. Both contributions were contingent on our continuing agreement with the state of Arkansas to train dental students.

Schledwitz asked if the \$3 million combined contribution from Arkansas and Delta Dental was “firm, or probable, or hopeful?”

Dr. Cook responded that the financial contribution had not been finalized. He went on to state that the Arkansas residents are making a positive impact at the College of Dentistry and in the state of Tennessee.

VIII. APPROVAL OF REVISED MISSION STATEMENT FOR UTM

UTM Chancellor Tommy Rakes presented on the revised campus mission statement. Rakes informed the committee that the mission statement had been changed to include up-to-date language, and that he was pleased with UTM’s “success in not making this a multi-paragraph, kitchen sink statement.”

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the new UT, Martin mission statement. A motion was made by Dr. Schommer, seconded by Ms. McGruder, and approved unanimously.

IX. APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN DESIGNATION OF Ph.D. PROGRAMS FROM A CONCENTRATION TO A MAJOR AT UTK.

Dr. High presented a change in the designation of Education Ph.D. programs at UTK from concentrations to majors.

High noted that the full Board would need to approve the change, which would then go to THEC for consideration.

High stated that since the faculty of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences have become more specialized, there is a need for more specific degrees in this area. It was proposed that the five existing concentrations in Health and Human Sciences (Child and Family, Nutrition Science, Community Health, Hospitality and Tourism, and

Retail and Consumer Sciences) be converted into three separate Ph.D. programs (Child and Family Studies, Nutritional Sciences (with a concentration in Community Health), and Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management.

High stated that it is also proposed that the six current Education concentrations (Counselor Education, Educational Psychology and Research, Higher Education Administration, School Psychology, Exercise Science, and Sports Studies) be converted to five separate majors (Counselor Education, Educational Psychology and Research, Higher Education Administration, School Psychology, and Exercise and Sports Science).

High stated that the benefits of the change were an important factor in the college's decision making process. One benefit is that graduates will be better able to obtain relevant licensures, because their diploma and transcript will specify exactly what they studied. Additionally, more specific programs will attract better students. Another benefit is that it will be easier for the College of Education to track students, since they currently do not keep data on students in concentrations. High noted that the program will not require any additional funds, and may even save money as administrative processes become more streamlined.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the change from concentrations to majors. A motion was made by Ms. Loughry, seconded by Dr. Schommer, and approved unanimously.

X. CREATION OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTATION SCIENCE AS A NON-INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT AT UTK

Interim Chancellor Jan Simek, UTK, explained the creation of the National Institute for Computation Science as a non-instructional unit at UTK. The project is sponsored by a very large NSF grant. Simek stated that the relevant information could be found in the committee's materials.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the creation of the National Institute for Computation Science as a non-instructional unit at UTK. A motion was made by Mr. Schledwitz, seconded by Ms. Blackburn, and approved unanimously.

XI. APPROVAL OF TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Hurd explained how the tenure process works at UT. She stated that "tenure begins in the academic department, and tenured faculty review each candidate's credentials...The process continues to the Dean, the campus chief academic officer, the chancellor, the vice president for academic affairs, and the president. The board has final authority."

Mr. Doug Horn stated that he wasn't aware that UT tenured instructors.

High responded that it is not typical. She said that sometimes campuses had specific situations where they want to tenure instructors.

Rakes stated that the reason that UTM wished to tenure instructors this year was that tenure was part of the agreement with several instructors who were hired years ago. He mentioned one instructor in the creative writing department who just finished her Ph.D., and the school wished to offer her tenure.

Mr. Horn asked what the time frame was for professors to become tenured. He also asked how many times a year we terminated a faculty member with cause.

High responded that under normal circumstances the tenure process takes between 6 and 7 years. If the person has proven to be truly important to the department, college, and campus, then the person is asked to submit a dossier of achievements in the 6th year. Sometimes, however, this process is longer or shorter.

UTK Interim Provost Martin responded to Horn's question about terminations. She said that professors are rarely terminated, because the tenure process works well and problems are largely dealt with via a performance review process.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve recommendations for tenure. A motion was made by Dr. Schommer, seconded by Mr. Batterson, and approved unanimously.

XII. APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Hurd announced that the comprehensive listings were included in the committee materials. She noted that the comprehensive listings would need to be further reviewed and approved by THEC.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the comprehensive listing of academic programs. The motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Ms. McGruder, and approved unanimously.

Schledwitz asked if there was a deadline for submission of comprehensive listings.

High responded that it was going to THEC in July and that the changes would be implemented by Fall.

XIII. AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER DEGREES

Hurd stated, "Each year at this time, the UT administration requests that the Board delegate to the president, chancellors, and other university officials designated by the president the authority to confer degrees at commencements held at any time during the academic year."

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the authorization to confer degrees. The motion was made by Ms. Castleman, seconded by Dr. Schommer, and approved unanimously.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Brittney McGruder mentioned that trustees should take advantage of “Trustee Shadow Day” on one of the UT campuses this fall.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair reminded the committee that the full Board meeting was in Hollingsworth Auditorium. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.