

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

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**

**February 26, 2010  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee met at 8:00 a.m. CST, Friday, February 26, 2010, at the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee Martin campus, Martin, TN.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Spruell Driver, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Bonnie Yegidis called the roll, and the following voting members were present:

Mr. Spruell Driver  
Ms. Anne Holt Blackburn  
Mr. Tyler Forrest  
Mr. John Foy  
Mr. James Murphy  
Dr. Verbie Prevost  
Mr. Karl Schledwitz  
Ms. Betty Ann Tanner

The following non-voting members were also present:

Dr. Toby Boulet  
Dr. Pedro Campa  
Dr. Karen Johnson  
Ms. Laura Nishida  
Dr. Rich Rhoda  
President Jan Simek  
Dr. Parker Suttle  
Dr. Jenna Wright

Additional Trustees present:

Mr. Charles Anderson  
Mr. George Cates  
Mr. Crawford Gallimore

Ms. Monice Hagler  
Mr. James Hall  
Mr. Douglas Horne  
Ms. Andrea Loughry  
Mr. Don Stansberry, Jr.  
Mr. Robert Talbott  
Mr. Charles Wharton

Dr. Yegidis announced a quorum was present.

### **III. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Chairman Driver noted that today's meeting is offered by video-conference and webcast as a cost saving measure as well as for the convenience of non-voting faculty and student representatives on the committee. There are video-conference locations at UTC, UTHSC, UTK, and UTSI.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Chair called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting. There were none. A motion for approval was made by Trustee Prevost, seconded by Trustee Forrest. The motion carried unanimously.

### **V. REPORTS ON CAMPUS STRATEGIC PLANS AND PROPOSED REVISIONS**

Dr. Yegidis discussed revisions and plans for the strategic plans and referenced the updates in the Board notebook. Trustee Murphy stated that all of the University's strategic plans should be aligned with the recent legislation passed from the special education session in January. Trustee Blackburn asked who is responsible for making decisions on the data and goals under student access. Dr. Yegidis clarified that the campuses, specifically the Chief Academic Officers and their staff, work to determine goals that are most appropriate for their campus. Trustee Loughry asked about the availability of these measures and President Simek stated that the strategic plans and updates will be available on the campus and system website for public access.

Chairman Driver asked for any further questions or comments and called for a motion. A motion for approval of the revised campus strategic plans was made by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Foy, and approved unanimously.

### **VI. PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AT UTC BY CONSOLIDATION OF THE TEACHER PREPARATION ACADEMY AND THE GRADUATE STUDIES DIVISION**

Dr. Yegidis introduced the proposal to consolidate the Teacher Preparation Academy and the Graduate Studies Division at UTC to create the School of Education. Provost Oldham gave a brief overview of the proposal and asked for any questions or comments.

There being no discussion, Chairman Driver called for a motion. A motion for approval of the proposal was made by Trustee Foy, seconded by Trustee Prevost, and carried unanimously.

#### **VII. REVISION OF UTHSC FACULTY HANDBOOK**

Dr. Yegidis presented information regarding the revisions to the UTHSC Faculty Handbook. Trustee Murphy asked for an overview of the key changes in the handbook. Dr. Yegidis asked Dr. Cheryl Scheid to address this request. Dr. Scheid provided an overview of the policy revisions in the critical areas of faculty appointment, retention, promotion, tenure and evaluation. Most of the revisions serve to clarify existing procedures.

A motion for approval was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Foy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VIII. AWARDING AN HONORARY DEGREE (UTK)**

President Simek presented a recommendation to award Albert Gore, Jr. the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws and Humane Letters from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Simek also provided information on the nominating committee, the process of awarding an honorary degree as well information about Mr. Gore.

Trustee Schledwitz made a motion to award the honorary degree to Albert Gore, Jr.

Discussion on this item included concerns about Gore's current involvement in politics and controversial topics, as well as positive observations about his military service, service as Vice President of the United States and receipt of the Nobel Prize. Chancellor Cheek discussed his desire to increase the number of honorary degrees awarded in the future.

After some discussion, the motion made by Trustee Schledwitz was seconded by Trustee Forrest, and passed.

#### **IX. ACCREDITATION AND THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Dr. Yegidis provided an overview of the accreditation process and the role of the Board of Trustees in the process. The 2009 Joint Advisory Statement on Accreditation and Governing Boards issued by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) was reviewed. Key points covered included oversight responsibilities of governing boards, opportunities for governing board involvement, and requirements for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges.

Dr. Yegidis and Trustee Loughry facilitated a discussion on the role of the UT Board of Trustees in the accreditation process. Each campus Chief Academic Officer provided an overview of where their specific campus is in the process and how Board involvement might be most beneficial. Trustee Murphy suggested that a subcommittee be created to work with Dr. Yegidis and the campus Chief Academic Officers on how to best involve the Board of Trustees.

President Simek emphasized that this presentation shows that the amount of data and compliance reporting required for accreditation is enormous. One focus of our summer retreat will be how to bring all of these reporting lines together with goal setting and benchmarking for each of the campuses and the institution as a whole.

## **X. REPORT ON DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Dr. Yegidis provided an overview of national data on distance education, the types of distance education at UT and the characteristics of our students.

Dr. Tommy Cates, Interim Executive Director of Extended Campus and Online Studies at UTM, gave an historical overview of the evolution of UT Online, provided a break-even analysis for online operations at UTM, and an overview of the changing demographics of the UTM student body, including dual enrollment, online and campus enrollment figures. Dr. Cates estimates that 15% of the online students are outside the region. UTM currently provides primarily undergraduate degree programs online while UTK and UTC focus on graduate degree programs.

Discussion on this item included UT's relationship with the Tennessee Board of Regents in developing online programs, the use of online courses to alleviate bottlenecks in popular courses, revenues generated by online education and an overall strategic plan for online education at the University of Tennessee.

Trustee Horne suggested that an online education division of the University be created to have a more strategic approach to online education. He suggested that the University have a more streamlined approach to online education and work to increase revenue through online education, as some of the for-profit institutions have done. Dr. Yegidis stated that suggestion would be taken under advisement and that UT has looked at various models of online education. Currently, online education at UT is offered and supported at the campus level.

President Simek expressed his concern that we are mindful of two things – quality and duplication of programs and services across our campuses. There are some programs that we can move forward, but only in the areas where it is appropriate for us to do that. Trustee Hall asked if there is a strategic plan for distance education and also asked how online programs fit into the accreditation process. Dr. Yegidis stated that each campus has a strategic plan that discusses the role of online and distance education, but that there is not a system wide strategic plan on distance education. SACS is very clear that a compliance audit of online programs is required to ensure quality for online programs. Once an institution has SACS approval for one program online, the institution has approval for additional online programs.

Trustee Murphy stated that it is evident that online education is a wave of the future. Our academic departments need to be very involved in the development of online programs to ensure quality and access. He questioned if UT is being aggressive enough at examining what needs to go online, particularly in light of budget concerns over the next 5-10 years? How do we make sure that campus academic units are being proactive and looking at a way to expand the reach of programs online? How do you take this valuable resource and really expand the reach

and educate as many students in a quality? Trustee Driver stated that the committee will take these suggestions and concerns into consideration and revisit this issue in a future meeting.

**XI. INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

This item was tabled until the next committee meeting.

**XII. REPORT ON PLANNING FOR CONSOLIDATION OR DISCONTINUANCE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT UTC**

Dr. Oldham reported that UTC has been reviewing academic programs and using the board approved process for discontinuance of academic programs. UTC has fourteen programs on THEC's Low-Producing Program list, five of which are to be consolidated or eliminated. Full proposals for these changes will be brought to the board at a future meeting.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Hagler asked that the Board be provided with an update on the closure and transition of the Social Work program in Memphis at the next meeting.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Driver adjourned the meeting at 10:08 am, CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bonnie L. Yegidis  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success