

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

June 20, 2013
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Board of Trustees of The University of Tennessee met at 8:30 a.m. EDT, Thursday, June 20, 2013, in Hollingsworth Auditorium on the campus of The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture in Knoxville.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Spruell Driver called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Dr. Katie High called the roll.

The following committee members and faculty/student representatives were present:

Mr. Jake Baker
Mr. Charles Buford
Dr. George Cook
Mr. Spruell Driver, Chair
Dr. Joseph DiPietro
Mr. John Foy
Ms. Monice Hagler
Ms. Sabrina Hurlock
Commissioner Julius Johnson
Ms. Bonnie E. Lynch
Dr. Deborah McAllister
Mr. Karl Schledwitz
Mr. Shalin Shah
Mr. Don Stansberry
Mr. Steve Thomas
Mr. Martin Walker

Mr. Chris Wilson
Dr. Thad Wilson

The following were absent:

Mr. Rick Drewry
Mr. Robert Fisher
Mr. Ben Maddox
Dr. Robert Nanney
Commissioner Kevin Huffman
Dr. Rich Rhoda
Dr. Victoria Steinberg

Dr. High announced the presence of a quorum of the voting members of the Committee.

III. OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Driver welcomed the group to the meeting. He introduced the new members of the Committee, recognized those with expiring terms, and provided brief updates of various campus initiatives. Dr. High explained the University's agreement with Coursera. Chair Driver called the Committee's attention to graduation data on the Strategic Plan Dashboard.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Last Meeting
- B. Comprehensive List of Programs (Exhibit 1)
- C. Authorization to Confer Degrees (Exhibit 2)
- D. Report of Faculty Promotions (Exhibit 3)

Chair Driver referred the Committee to the Consent Agenda and asked if any member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing no requests to remove an item, the Chair called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Foy moved approval, Trustee Hagler seconded, and the motion carried.

V. PROGRAM OF STUDY LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Dr. High noted that UTK had developed a full curriculum proposal for the development of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree. The MFA would advance UTK's institutional imperatives toward discovery, innovation and creative activities. The likely publication of novels and books of poems created by MFA students and alumni could garner national and international attention for the University and enrich the literature.

The Trustees briefly discussed how the new program differs from the existing program. Dr. Tom Haddox, of the UTK Department of English, was in attendance to answer Trustee questions.

Members of the Committee expressed some concern regarding the length of time it takes to approve new programs. They also asked whether there are programs that are not productive or competitive.

Dr. High and Dr. DiPietro spoke to these concerns and explained why new programs take time for approval and also explained the process that the campuses go through to evaluate existing programs, looking at how they can remain competitive. Dr. DiPietro agreed to follow-up on the concerns expressed by the Trustees.

Trustee Foy moved approval of the program of study leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at UTK (Exhibit 4). The motion was seconded by Trustee Schledwitz and carried.

VI. UTK FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISIONS

Dr. India Lane presented proposed changes in the UTK/UTIA/UTSI Faculty Handbook creating a new category of non-tenure-track faculty called "faculty of practice." The proposed Faculty Handbook revisions add the basic criteria for the Instructor of Practice, Assistant Professor of Practice, Associate Professor of Practice and Professor of Practice to the existing non-tenure-track position descriptions.

The proposed revisions have been approved by the Faculty Senate and the Chancellors, and have been further reviewed and were recommended for

approval by the General Counsel and Secretary, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, and the President.

Trustee Hagler moved approval of the UTK Faculty Handbook revisions regarding Non-Tenure-Track Faculty of Practice positions (Exhibit 5). The motion was seconded by Trustee Shah and carried.

VII. REVISION OF UTC FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Chair Driver recognized Yancy Freeman, UTC Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services, to present this item.

UTC proposed an incremental increase in the GPA for an entering freshman who scores a 21 or higher on the ACT. UTC data indicate students who have at least a 2.5 high school GPA have a 91% freshman retention rate, compared to a 70% retention rate for those students who have less than a 2.5 GPA.

This change would impact approximately 100 students, but it does not have any disparate impact for race or ethnicity and/or gender. These 100 students will have the option to submit additional information in order to receive a holistic review of their application.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the ACT should also be moved in addition to the high school GPA. Mr. Freeman explained that UTC had researched the impact of increasing the ACT requirement and concluded that it is not appropriate to make that change at this time.

Other subjects discussed were: how UTC's admission requirements compare to those of its peers; the holistic review process for those students who do not meet the ACT/GPA requirements; and capacity issues on the UTC campus.

Trustee Foy moved approval of the revised undergraduate admission requirements at UT Chattanooga (Exhibit 6). Trustee Schledwitz seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

VIII. TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. High stated that under Board policy, tenure is granted only by positive action of the Board of Trustees. A list of faculty being recommended by the President for tenure is submitted to the Board each June. Chair Driver called for a motion

concerning the 2012-2013 tenure recommendations. Trustee Stansberry moved that the Board of Trustees grant tenure to the faculty members recommended by the President (Exhibit 7). Trustee Schledwitz seconded, and the motion carried.

IX. TWO-YEAR REVIEW OF THE BREDESEN CENTER AND THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. PROGRAM

Dr. Lee Riedinger presented an update on the interdisciplinary doctoral degree in science and engineering, administered by the UT/ORNL Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education (Exhibit 8).

The Trustees expressed how pleased and impressed they were with the quality of the program and the students. A brief discussion followed regarding some specifics about the research and majors within the program.

X. DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

President DiPietro introduced Dr. Noma Anderson, Chair of the Diversity Advisory Council. Dr. Anderson provided an update on the work of the council for 2012-2013 (Exhibit 9).

Following the presentation, there was a discussion about necessary budgetary and personnel resources. Dr. Anderson will bring a budgetary recommendation to President DiPietro. Some interest was expressed in Trustee representation on DAC, but Trustee Wilson reminded the Committee that the Student and Faculty Trustees are already members of DAC. President DiPietro said he would explore the possibility of additional Trustees on the DAC.

XI. CAMPUS REPORTS ON SUMMER TERM

Representatives from each undergraduate campus provided reports on the summer term (Exhibit 10), addressing the following:

- The rationale for increasing summer school enrollment
- The campus goals for summer school enrollment
- Strategies to achieve goals
 - Student/Faculty Initiatives
 - Marketing/Communication
- Cost/benefit considerations
- Economic impact on the region

- Issues still to be addressed

Following the campus presentations, Ron Loewen, System Budget Director, spoke to the impact of summer school on budgets, resources, and the formula funding model.

The Trustees discussed the possibility of discounting summer tuition, or exempting summer school from tuition increases, in an effort to increase summer school attendance, as well as providing incentives to faculty for teaching during the summer term. These possibilities and will be explored and reported to the Board at a later date.

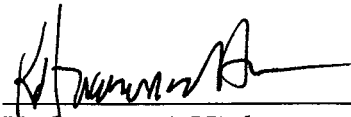
XII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Driver adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



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