

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

February 26, 2015
Memphis, 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, Thursday, February 26, 2015, in the O.D. Larry Dining Hall of the Student Alumni Center on the campus of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Because Committee Chair Vicky Gregg was unable to attend, the Vice Chair of the Board, Brian Ferguson, served as Committee Chair Pro Tempore and called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Dr. Katie High called the roll. The following committee members and faculty/student representatives were present:

Ms. Dina Ali
Mr. Jalen Blue
Dr. Russ Deaton
Dr. Joseph DiPietro
Dr. Martin Donaldson
Dr. Brian Donavant
Mr. Brian Ferguson
Mr. Robert Fisher
Mr. John Foy
Dr. David Golden
Commissioner Julius Johnson
Mr. Brad Lampley
Ms. Rhedona Rose
Ms. Julia Wells
Dr. Thad Wilson

The following members and representatives were absent:

Dr. Susan Davidson
Mr. John Domanski
Ms. Laura Duncan
Ms. Vicky Gregg, Committee Chair
Dr. Joanne Hall
Ms. Sabrina Hurlock
Ms. Kelsey Keny
Ms. Bonnie Lynch
Commissioner Candice McQueen
Ms. Jessica Welch
Mr. Chris Wilson

Dr. High announced the presence of a quorum of the voting members of the Committee. Other Trustees, administrative staff, members of the public, and representatives of the media were also present.

III. OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vice Chair Ferguson recognized Jalen Blue as a new Student Trustee, and Mr. Blue briefly addressed the Committee.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Last Meeting
- B. Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters UT Knoxville (Exhibit 1)
- C. Honorary Degree, Master of Fine Arts in Acting, UT Knoxville (Exhibit 2)
- D. Grant of Tenure to Two UT Knoxville Faculty Members Under Expedited Procedures (Exhibit 3)

Vice Chair Ferguson 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, Vice Chair Ferguson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was made and seconded, and the Consent Agenda was approved.

V. REVISED UT MARTIN FACULTY HANDBOOK

Chancellor Rakes introduced the item and then invited Dr. Vicki Seng, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to present an overview of the comprehensive revision of the UT Martin Faculty Handbook (Exhibit 4).

Following the presentation, a motion was made to approve the five-point rating scale for annual performance review of faculty at UT Martin. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.¹ A separate motion was made to approve the UT Martin Faculty Handbook. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

VI. PROPOSAL FOR A PROGRAM OF STUDY LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AT UT MARTIN

Vice President Katie High introduced the item and then introduced Dr. Robert Nanney, Professor and Chair of Communications at UT Martin, who further described the program.

Following a discussion about the program offerings and number of students, a motion was made to approve the program of study leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Strategic Communication at UT Martin (Exhibit 5). The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

VII. REVISION OF MATH UNIT REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION TO UT MARTIN

Chancellor Rakes presented the proposed revision of the Math unit requirements for undergraduate admission to UT Martin, explaining that the revision is due to a change in the curriculum of high schools in the UT Martin area.

There was some discussion regarding whether this should be considered system-wide. Dr. High explained that at this point the high school curriculum changes affect only UT Martin because of its proximity to the high schools in question.

¹ At the end of the meeting, it was noted that the motion presented in the meeting material incorrectly referred to tenured faculty rather than to all faculty. Without objection, the motion was corrected to refer to all faculty as reflected in the revised handbook provisions.

A motion was made to approve the revised of Math unit requirements for undergraduate admission to UT Martin (Exhibit 6). The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

VIII. REVIEW OF GRADUATE STIPENDS AND ASSISTANTSHIPS AT UT KNOXVILLE

As requested by Trustee Wharton at the last meeting, Chancellor Cheek made a presentation (Exhibit 7) describing the increased investment UT Knoxville has made in graduate stipends and assistantships. He noted that despite a 24% increase in the total dollar amount since 2010, and an 18% increase in the median assistantship per student, the number of students receiving assistantships has changed little, and the minimum stipend is at the low end compared with select top-25 peers. A brief discussion followed Chancellor Cheek's presentation.

IX. DATA PRESENTATION ON FINANCIAL AID

Dr. Katie High presented an update on Financial Aid (Exhibit 8) and how tuition increases affect different categories of students and how it affects student debt as students graduate. A discussion focused on student debt followed the presentation. Detailed data supporting the presentation was presented in the meeting materials (Exhibit 9).

X. SACS ACCREDITATION UPDATE FOR UTHSC

Vice Chancellor Cheryl Scheid, who was a co-lead for the Health Science Center's SACS accreditation effort, reported that UTHSC was judged completely compliant with SACS standards and is positioned to be accredited as a separate institution.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Committee.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine N. High", written over a horizontal line.

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