

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

Zoom Monthly Meeting
June 11, 2024

Attendance: (senators, administrators, and faculty)

Attending: PJ Koltnow, Jillian McCarthy, Karen Derefinko, Tracy McClinton, Ted Cory, Jayc Sedlmayr, Kristen Bettin, Chris Wood, Jeffrey Bieber, Ava Saidian, Twisha Oza, Helmut O Steinberg, Yanhui Zhang, Tyler Melton, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Laxmichaya Sawant, Myra M Meekins, Ramesh Narayanan, Jill M. Maples, Stephen Pishko, Steven M Doettl, Donna Lynch-Smith, Kim Carter, Anna Bukiya, Heather Moss, Mary Erickson, Nina K Sublette, Phyllis Richey, Tauheed Ishrat, Jill Tichy, Hassan Almoazen, Yi Lu, Richard Smith, Ramesh Krishnan, Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Vickie Baselski, Brett Wilson, Vrushali Abhyankar, Ayman Aldayeh, Scott Hollis, Fuming Zhou, Shelley White-Means, Ben Maddox, Elisha McCoy, Jess Newman McDonald, Nawajes Mandal, Kevin Freeman, Ron Espinal, Ken Tilashasku, Liza Makowski, Sarah Newell, Ji Min Yochim, Laurentia Nodit, Rachel Barenie, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Sharon Little, Cynthia Russell, Stephanie Cage, Laura T Reed, Peter Buckley, Ron Cowan, Dan Young, Ivan Gerling, Shaunta' Chamberlin, Santosh Kumar, Nikki Dyer, Katherine March, Alisa Haushalter, Karen Johnson, Lisa Beasley, Sunbal Ashraf, Keith May, Bruce Keisling, Melissa Anne Taylor, Maria Tirado, Anas Eid, Wei Li, Karine Guerrier, Carrie Harvey, Jason A Yaun, Fatima Ahmed, Frank Park, Thaddeus A Wilson, Hitesh S Sandhu, Harry T Cosby, Chris Finch, Lin Wu, D Neil Hayes, Kafait Malik, Djamel Lebeche, Jess Wesberry, Orli Weisser-Pike, James M. Lewis, Stephen Always, Nikki Zite, Kimberly Morris, Brittany Simpson, Mahmoud Hassouba, Chris Fuchs, Nikhil Gopal, Sheila Criswell, Stephen Rauls, Peggy Reisser, Joseph Willmitch, Zheng Fan, Lee Weaver, Valarie Fleming, Randy Boyd, Randy McNally.

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm CST/5:05 pm EST

Faculty Senate Meeting

Presiding: Mr. Paul J. Koltnow, President

Discussion and Approval of the May 14, 2024, minutes

- The floor was opened for discussion of the May 14th, 2024 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Dr. Richard Smith motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Donna Lynch-Smith.
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 100% (53/53)
 - Do not approve: 0% (0/53)
 - Abstain: 0% (0/53)

Vote on Policies (Appendix A and B)

- Dr. Terrance Cooper presented Faculty Handbook policy drafts for Emeritus Professor and Distinguished Professor. Each policy was approved by the Handbook Committee and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. This vote is to complete the Senate's approval process only. Now each policy will move forward to the Administration approval process.
- Emeritus Professor
 - Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 98% (56/57)
 - Do not approve: 2% (1/57)
 - Abstain: 0% (0/57)
- Distinguished Professor
 - Brief discussion about Full Professor requirements. Criteria vary by college, so it is technically possible to be any level of professor (language is not prohibitive).
 - Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 94% (51/54)
 - Do not approve: 4% (2/54)

- Abstain: 2% (1/54)

Vote for Faculty Senate Officers

- Secretary:
 - Dr. Ted Cory previously nominated
 - No nominations from the floor
 - Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Dr. Ted Cory: 100% (51/51)
- President-Elect:
 - Dr. Karen Derefinko previously nominated
 - No nominations from the floor
 - Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Dr. Karen Derefinko: 100% (50/50)
- Faculty Senate Representative to the UTHSC Advisory Board
 - Dr. Jillian McCarthy previously nominated
 - No nominations from the floor
 - Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Dr. Jillian McCarthy: 100% (49/49)

Chancellor Buckley Speaks

- Chancellor Zoomed in from Knoxville
- A year of integration across the state
 - University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd and Lt. Governor of Tennessee Randy McNally present at the meeting
- Many Faculty Senate Accomplishments
 - New Faculty Handbook
 - Multiyear Contracts
 - Turning attention to Research Mission of UTHSC

Presentation of Presidential Citations

- University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd
 - Leadership, energy, and enthusiasm
 - Proponent of OneUT
 - Tireless and thankless work

- Lt. Governor Randy McNally
 - Appreciation of the allocation of funds for the Gross Anatomy Building at UTHSC
 - Accompanied by Representatives Brett Taylor and Lowell Russell

Annual Faculty Senate Report

- Acknowledgement of the Current Faculty Senate Executive Committee
 - Members were acknowledged
- Accomplishments of the Senate
 - MultiYear Contracts
 - Hardware Refresh
 - Increase in Senator representation in past year (from 93 to 110 senators, an increase of 6.4%)
 - Including increases in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville
 - Position of Senators on Committees that shape the University
 - UT Health Science Center Cabinet: PJ Koltnow
 - Search Committee COD Dean: Jillian MCCarthy
 - Search Committee COM Dean: PJ Koltnow

Committee Annual Reports

- Education Committee
 - AI Discussions
 - Blackboard Ultra
 - Honor Code Revision
- Research Committee
 - NIH Reviewer process changes
 - DSMP template
 - Intramural grant support, core facilities, incentive payment, F&A
- Non-Tenure Track
 - MultiYear contracts

- Recruitment and Retention
 - Workload Evaluation
- Clinical Affairs
 - Wellness Officer
 - Access Issues for Residents
 - COACHE survey
- Handbook
 - MultiYear appointments
 - New Addition of the Faculty Handbook
 - Distinguished and Emeritus Professor Policies approved by senate
- Faculty Affairs
 - Faculty Feedback Action Survey
 - Faculty Affairs Working Group
 - COACHE survey
- Computing Technology and Communications
 - Hardware Refresh Standard
 - ChatGPT and its uses
 - Supported Blackboard Ultra transition
- Legislative Resources
 - Reports on Hill Days
 - Final Report on Tennessee General Assembly budget
 - Host fall session with Government relations team
- Budget and Benefits
 - Buy Out for President and Secretary
 - Examining impact of adding non tenure track faculty to research incentive program
 - Examining growth of upper administration and state dollars from the budget

Presentation of Awards

- Administrator of the Year
 - Chief Anthony Berryhill
- Senator of the Year
 - Dr. Terrance Cooper

- **Certificate of Appreciation**
 - David Mills, Sr., Director of Government Relations
 - Kiera Fields, Administrative Assistant to Chancellor Buckley
 - Dean James Haynes, COM Chattanooga
- **Executive Committee Recognition of Leadership Award**
 - Mr. PJ Koltnow

Presentation of the new Faculty Handbook

- Vice Chancellor Cynthia Russell and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Valarie Fleming

Welcome New Senators, Recognize Retirement

- New Senators recognized
- Dr. Richard Smith (COM) retirement and thank you

Chancellor Buckley Closes the Senate

- Recognizing those who have supported UTHSC
- Look forward to another productive year of Shared Governance

Transition of the Senate Office

- Video of new Faculty Senate President Dr. Tracy McClinton accepting the gavel
- https://liveutk.sharepoint.com/:v/:s/UTHSC_CM/EdQLqxO4MEIBmzodL-roDWYBunegud837Dx1XUN4ZzI1hg?e=i4gpAx

New Business

- None

Announcements

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm CST/6:06 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,



Faculty Senate
faculty@uthsc.edu

Memphis
Knoxville
Chattanooga
Nashville

Dr. Karen Derefinko
Faculty Senate Secretary

Appendix A. Professor Emeritus Policy

1-24-24 Distributed to Handbook Committee
2-6-24 Handbook Committee Revisions
2-28-24 Text agreed upon by Handbook Committee and Dr Fleming
2-29-24 forwarded to the CAO's Office
3-1-24 Additional revisions from CAO's Office and Handbook Committee
3-2 to 3-12-24 Additional revisions from Handbook Committee
3-27-24 Outcome of meeting with Valarie Fleming
4-3-24 Forwarded to FSEC & Dr. Fleming with Handbook Committee approval
4-4-24 approved by FSEC for forwarding to FAWG and Senate
4-9-24 presented to Faculty Senate for input
4-10-24 Forwarded Senate version to Drs. Fleming and Russell for input from FAWG and deans

6.2.7 Emeritus Appointments

UTHSC may award emeritus status to faculty members at or after the time of their retirement. A faculty member with emeritus status will hold an honorary faculty appointment at a specified rank/title. Emeritus status is granted to those faculty members who have distinguished themselves in service to the university and who have received recognition for their academic or other contributions. The status is not granted automatically upon retirement of a faculty member but rather based upon (a) the length and quality of service to the university, (b) the recommendation of the faculty member's Chair, (c) with the endorsement of the Dean, and (d) subsequent approval of the Chancellor.

Emeritus status is usually reserved for faculty members retiring at the rank of full professor and are designated as Professor Emeritus. Faculty of a lower rank are not excluded from the award of emeritus status when justified. An administrator holding a faculty position retiring with the rank of dean or above is designated Dean Emeritus, etc. An individual retiring and holding the title of Chair, Distinguished or Endowed Chair Professor, etc. is designated as emeritus at that title.

Subject to use of "university" or "UTHSC" consistent with its use elsewhere in the Faculty Handbook.

This may be an issue to administratively revise throughout the Handbook when distinguishing UTHC from the UT system.

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Appendix B. Distinguished Professor Policy

The appointment of a UTHSC Distinguished Professor may only be made if the college's/unit's approved bylaws contain a description of the criteria and process by which an appointment is to be made.

Faculty members who receive this honorific title are subject to annual performance reviews in the same manner as other faculty. When deemed necessary by the chair or the dean, the annual review will also include an additional discussion regarding continuation of the title.

Use of the title may be discontinued by the Chancellor if the faculty member demonstrably ceases to perform at the level expected of an individual holding the title or for other adequate cause. Typically, removal of the title is initiated by the dean, following consultation with the department/unit chair and faculty, who will forward a recommendation to the Chancellor along with his/her reasoning for the recommendation. The faculty member will also be given an opportunity to respond to the dean's recommendation. Following consideration of these documents and any other information the Chancellor deems necessary, he/she will decide whether or not to remove the title. That decision and reasoning upon which it is being made will be forwarded to the CAO, dean, faculty and his/her unit leader. The Chancellor's decision is final.

Approval History

- 1-17-23 Distributed to Handbook Committee
- 1-20-23 Text discussed at Handbook Committee meeting
- 1-25-23 Informed Kristi of HB Com. Dissatisfaction with text and request for more detailed process
- 1-28-23 Distributed to Handbook Committee for further discussion
- 2-3-23 Discussed by Handbook Committee and with Kristi Forman
- 2-2-23 Approved by FAWG
- 2-9-23 Distributed to Handbook Committee in preparation for distribution to FSEC members
- 2-10-20 HBC revisions
- 2-21-23 FSEC approved for negotiation with Kristi Forman subject to duration question
- 2-24-23 Received from CAO Office & distributed to Handbook Committee
- 3-13-24 Suggested revision (highlighted in yellow) for today's discussion with Dr. Fleming
- 3-13-24 Outcome of meeting with Valarie Fleming
- 3-25-24 Handbook Committee revisions forwarded to Valarie Fleming for discussion
- 3-27-24 Outcome of Mtg with Valarie Fleming
- 4-3-24 Forwarded to FSEC & Dr. Fleming with Handbook Committee approval
- 4-4-24 FSEC approved for forwarding to FAWG and Senate
- 4-9-24 presented to Faculty Senate for input
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FA 100 Distinguished Professors

POLICY

In order to recognize faculty who have provided outstanding service to the campus for a prolonged period, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center has created the title of UTHSC Distinguished Professor.

PROCEDURE

The title of UTHSC Distinguished Professor may be awarded to a full-time UTHSC faculty member who has typically served with excellence for 10 or more years and who plans to continue in service to the university. The specific criteria for these appointments may vary by college; however, such appointments are initiated by the dean. Annually, each dean, receiving requests from department/unit leaders following their consultation with the department's/unit's faculty, can nominate one or more faculty from his/her college to be considered for this honorific title. The dean's recommendation and supporting materials will be considered by the Chancellor. If approved by the Chancellor, the Chief Academic Officer will be notified for enactment of the appointment.

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