

**Meeting Agenda**  
**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Videoconference/In-person**  
<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/8659743843>  
**3:00 pm (CST)/4:00 pm (EST)**

**UT Faculty Council Voting Members (Quorum, 5 voting members)**

**UTHSC** Tayebeh (Fruz) Pourmotabbed (Faculty Senate President)  
Martin Donaldson (Campus Representative)

**UTK** Lou Gross (Faculty Senate President)  
David Patterson (Campus Representative)

**UTM** Anderson Starling (Faculty Senate President)  
Sean Walker (Campus Representative)

**UTC** Tammy Garland (Faculty Senate President)  
Elizabeth Crawford (Campus Representative)

**UT Southern** Michael Cathey (Faculty Senate President)  
Kenneth Vickers (Campus Representative)

**Faculty Appointee to Education, Research, and Service Committee (Ex-Officio voting)**

**UTHSC** Phyllis Richey (Board of Trustees ERS Committee faculty appointee)

**UT Faculty Council Ex- Officio Non-voting Members**

**UT** Randy Boyd (President)  
Linda C. Martin (Vice President, Academic Affairs & Student Success)  
Karen Etzkorn, (Director of Academic Affairs)

**UT Faculty Council Guests**

**UT** Stacey Patterson (VP Research, Outreach & Economic Development)

**Order of Business**

1. President Boyd
2. Approve Minutes
  - a. See attached
3. System Updates
  - a. Dr. Martin
  - b. Dr. Patterson
  - c. Dr. Etzkorn
4. 9-Month Faculty Leave Discussion update
5. Other new business?

## Questions for President Boyd

1. One question I have concerns federal congressional earmarks given that Tennessee is near the bottom of the funding provided this year (the New York Times recently published an analysis of this). This is the first these earmarks have returned in several years and I don't know if there is a System policy on whether to encourage the State congressional delegation to seek earmarks or not. I ask because evidently there are now earmarks being provided directly to universities including a \$50M endowment to Univ of Alabama to attract faculty – see

<https://www.science.org/content/article/congress-restores-spending-earmarks-rules-remove-odor>

[Congress restores spending on earmarks—but with rules to remove odor | Science | AAAS](#)

The \$1.5 trillion spending bill enacted last month did more than fund government operations for the next 6 months. It also revived congressional earmarking—the controversial practice of allowing legislators, often at the behest of powerful constituents, to allocate money for specific projects in their district or state that federal agencies did not request.

[www.science.org](http://www.science.org)

2. A second question concerns analysis of the System-wide data on tenure track faculty numbers as compared to non-tenure track. I think we were told the Board would be looking at this but I don't know if the data have been collected to show any historical trends such as those we have seen at UTK and UTHSC.

3. Finally, I continue to get questions about the perception that there has been continuing increases in administrative positions while tenured faculty numbers have not grown and student enrollment has grown. Are there data System-wide on changes in numbers of administrators?

## **UFC Minutes – April 20, 2022**

### **Carey Whitworth – Guest/Host**

Discussed of the role of the Government Relations and Advocacy Office in tracking legislation at both the state and federal level in tracking legislation related to UT System interests and explained how Office staff work with System constituency groups to advocate for the most advantageous legislative outcomes.

Detailed the process the methods staff members use to mitigate important and/or concerning bills.

Example: she discussed ways in which the Office represented the University's need to protect diversity during the recent legislative debates over the Divisive Concepts bills.

Presented the President's report on the General Assembly's 2022 budget.

Highlights included \$90 million to fund the higher education funding formula, \$72 million for the ORII, \$2.9 million in recurring funds for the College of Veterinary Medicine, a 4% salary pool for higher education employees, and capital project funding including \$55.9 million for a UT Chattanooga (UTC) Health Sciences, \$83 million for the Haslam College of business, and an \$18 million legislative budget amendment for the UTM TEST Hub.

### **Anderson Starling**

Extended thanks for the GRA Office staff for their advocacy for the TEST Hub funding and for their work on the Divisive Issues legislation.

In response to questions stemming for a discussion of the GRA Office's role in facilitating opioid settlement funding, the Council will invite Jennifer Tourville to a future meeting to discuss ongoing SMART initiative actions.

### **President Boyd**

Discussed the origins of the SMART initiative.

Outlined his plans for annual campus tours with Carey Whitworth and other Government Relations and Advocacy Office staff each year after the close of the legislative sessions to keep student governments and faculty senates abreast of the advocacy of the Office in that session.

The *Tennessean* board has extended its Gubernatorial Forums to UT campuses.

Explained why a \$18 million GME from Gov. Bill Lee was reduced to \$10 million in the General Assembly because \$4 million in similar funds went unspent last year. The wording in last year's grant prevented equal distribution of these fund equally across the Grand Divisions because there was no constituency group in Middle Tennessee.

Reported the increase of HOPE scholarship funds to \$4,700 for full-time freshmen and sophomores and to \$5,700 to junior and seniors.

The increase in the HOPE program makes for more available funds for the Tennessee Promise program.

He asked the Council to ask their Senates if the System should increase Promise benefits to existing students or use the excess funds to include additional students.

### **Elizabeth Crawford**

Asked about the possibility of extending scholarship funds to non-traditional students who cannot meet the 12-hour requirement full-time status. She suggested funds for those who can manage 6 hours.

Presented two personal legislative asks for next session.

1. Loan forgiveness for health service professionals who will contract to serve in high needs areas in Tennessee.
2. A bill that would extend in-state tuition to any undocumented student who completes her/his senior year in a Tennessee high school.

### **Lou Gross**

Three questions/concerns:

1. Feels that the growth of tenure-track positions is decreasing in percentage to the rate of the increase of non-tenured or instructional positions.

### **Linda Martin**

Provided the FTE report for tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure track from 2011-2021. The percentages are fairly consistent over a ten-year span.

### **Martin Donaldson**

Stated that the HSC needs to offer multi-year contracts for appointments as the trend in the institution is away from tenure-track. Multi-year appointments will help to recruit faculty.

2. Asked if the System thought it appropriate to go after federal earmarks.

### **Stacey Patterson**

Explained that the system takes advantage of plus up, but needs to do a better job of publicizing that fact.

3. Asked for System-wide information on the increase of administrative positions.

### **Stacey Patterson**

Presented data that while all positions are increasing, the percentage of instructional to administrative has remained the same.

She will have Human Resources compile data that excludes student service administrative positions to get a clearer view of the increase of executive-level administrative growth across the System.

**Fruz Pourmontabbed**

Expressed concern that the HSC needs a more formal or standardized rate of salary increases, particularly in relation to promotion, across its various divisions.

**President Boyd**

Discussed the increase in benefits for UT System employees.  
Asked the senates to list benefits that we want to increase.

**Motion passed:**

The UFC thanks VP Whitworth and their staff for all their effort over the past to enhance State support for UT and for their efforts to limit the potential for negative impact on UT from potential bills.