

Meeting Agenda**November 16, 2022 – Videoconference**<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/8659743843>**3:00 pm (CST)/4:00 pm (EST)****UT Faculty Council Voting Members (Quorum, 5 voting members)**

UTHSC Jillian McCarthy-Maeder (Faculty Senate President)
Martin Donaldson (Campus Representative)

UTK Elisabeth Schussler (Faculty Senate President)
Beauvais Lyons (Campus Representative)

UTM Clinton Smith (Faculty Senate President)
Sean Walker (Campus Representative)

UTC Jennifer Boyd (Faculty Senate President)
Felicia McGhee (Campus Representative)

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

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

UTK Andy Puckett (Board of Trustees ERS Committee faculty appointee)

UT Faculty Council Ex- Officio Non-voting Members

UT Randy Boyd (President)
Bernie Savarese (Acting Vice President, Academic Affairs & Student Success)

UT Faculty Council Guests

UT Karen Etzkorn, (Director of Academic Affairs)
(VP Research, Outreach & Economic Development)

Order of Business

1. President Boyd
 - a. Updates on items discussed at the October meeting (Please see email from Beauvais)
2. Approve Minutes - Please see attached
3. System Updates
 - a. Dr. Savarese
 - b. Dr. Etzkorn
 - c. Who do we need to invite in Dr. Patterson's absence?

November Meeting Minutes

Sean Walker was not able to chair the meeting due to a medical procedure. Michael Cathey served as chair. Beauvais Lyons compiled the meeting minutes.

4. **Approve of the October Minutes:** Felicia McGhee-Hill moved, Beauvais Lyons seconded. Minutes approved.
5. **Report from Karen Etkorn, (Director of Academic Affairs):** Etkorn reported on new and revised academic degree program proposals from all campuses, and some cooperative programs between campuses that were approved at the October Board of Trustees Meeting that are now being forwarded to THEC for approval.
6. **Discussion with President Boyd:** President Boyd had to join the meeting a few minutes late while travelling. He thanked the Council for the productive meeting on October 27th with Board Chair John Compton. His report addressed the following questions/issues that had been prepared in advance of the meeting:

2023 Legislative Session: Boyd said that there are significant opportunities in the next session to fund capital projects across the UT System. In DEI issues, he said he is meeting with 20 newly elected legislators to talk about making sure that our role as a public university serves all Tennesseans through educational access.

Pending US Supreme Court Decision on College Admissions: Boyd said that race is currently not one of the factors in college admissions at UT, but that through our “Flagship” school program we are able to target our recruiting efforts on high schools with significant African American populations.

Sick-Leave for 9-Month Faculty: Working with Vice-President David Miller, they are in conversation with Chancellors about ways of implementing a policy for nine-month faculty that would be funded at the campus level.

PPPR: Based on the report to the October Board of Trustees meeting, PPPR will continue for at least one more year to collect more data before the board considers any revisions to current post-tenure review policies.

HOPE Scholarships and Pregnancy: Boyd said that he thinks the program could allow students to pause a HOP scholarship for medical reasons. Concern was expressed that the program may not communicate this to eligible students. Boyd said that he would follow up on this and communicate to the Council.

Faculty Morale: Boyd asked for input for how to address this issue, much of which is attributed to lingering effects of the pandemic. Ideas were shared from different campuses, including UT Southern and UTK, where a survey of indicated a 35% percent reduction of administrative and staff support for faculty, to adjusting to using new software. It is expected that this matter will be something that we will continue to need to address as an institution.

Tennessee Promise Mentor Assigning: President Boyd thanked the UFC for flagging this issue and they are going to work on it. Part of the problem seems to stem from students not completing a survey to best match them with prospective mentors. He said it was a software problem. It was suggested that TN Promise students might do this as part

of their orientation or in conversation with a campus level activity they are already enrolled in.

Reproductive Education at UTHSC: Reference was made to Chancellor Buckley's concern about the need to revise current state law regarding abortion access, and that this limits the comprehensive education of medical students, could have negative effects on women who have life threatening pregnancies, and could prevent UTHSC from recruiting the most talented students. Boyd said that the current state law needs to be revised to address these concerns.

Items considered for discussion which were not addressed at the meeting included:

- Ideas for leveraging enrollment across the System (taking advantage of unused spots).
- The BOT would like feedback on the best way to best prepare for effects of a recession on enrollment.
- Thoughts about the future of UT Online (ASU is progressing at UTK) consider the other four campuses as well.

7. Discussion with Vice-President Savarese: B. Savarese said that he is following through on several matters from the Education, Research and Service Committee meeting, including:

- Assessing the all faculty evaluation policies (AAPR, ETTR, EPPR, APPR).
- Approval of new/revised program submissions to THEC.
- Looking at systems to support students through emergency funding.
- Working with Vice-President Miller on expending sick-leave policies.
- Assessing a recent COACHE survey of faculty job satisfaction.
- Looking at ways of supporting medial leave for graduate students.
- Making sure mental health resources are available to faculty and staff.

He also confirmed that students can pause HOPE Scholarships for medical reasons, and would follow through with the Council on this.

8. Additional Discussion

M. Cathey asked about involving [Jeff W. Smith, Interim Vice-President for Research](#) in a future meeting.

B. Lyons proposed that it would be appropriate to invite [Carey Whitworth, Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy](#) for our January meeting with the start of the legislative session.

9. Adjournment by consensus at 3:50 pm (CST)/4:50 pm (EST)