



## UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19, 2022 – Videoconference

3:00 pm (CST)/4:00 pm (EST)

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

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

**UTK** Amber Roessner (Faculty Senate President-Elect) for Elisabeth Schussler  
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 Member

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

### UT Faculty Council Guests

**UT** Karen Etzkorn, (Director of Academic Affairs)

### Order of Business

1. Minutes of September 21, 2022 were approved as presented.
2. Announcements: Sean Walker noted that he sent feedback from the Council on the proposed Code of Conduct Policy to Mike Fitzgerald with the Office of General Council. He reported that there are no plans to present the Code of Conduct at the upcoming BOT meeting. Sean also said the BOT meeting agenda should be posted by October 20. Andy Puckett said that he received the agenda late on October 18.
3. Discussion of topics for the UFC meeting on Thursday October 27 at 4:30/5:30pm at UT Martin (and by Zoom) with Chairman Compton and President Boyd.
  - a) Status of the UFC recommendations from the September 21 meeting regarding the proposed sick-leave policy for 9-month faculty.
  - b) Concern was expressed about the administrative burden and delay from the [University of Tennessee's bylaws](#) (Article VII section 7.6) and [Contracts Fiscal](#)

[Policy \(FI0420\)](#) [specify which University employees are allowed to sign contracts](#) on behalf of the University. This applies to “click through” software agreements as part of a software download. This means that anything that is not a University approved/provided software, even those that come with a purchased piece of equipment, will need to be approved prior to downloading and agreeing to terms and conditions.

- c) Interest was expressed regarding what the UT System is doing to increase the \$100,000 limit imposed by the state building commission on building renovation projects.
- d) Concern was expressed about the redundancy of PPPR as part of [UT Board Policy BT0006](#). Bernie Savarese said that there will be a report to the board as part of the October meeting. Several members of the Council said that if annual reviews (APPR) were thorough, PPPR represented an administrative redundancy and lost productivity for both faculty and administrators. The point was also made that UT Board Policy had previously established EPPR, a triggered form of post-tenure review.
- e) Interest was expressed regarding a potential online course partnership between Arizona State University and UTK, and what implications this might have for system-wide online initiatives.
- f) Interest was expressed about new abortion laws in the state, and if the UT System might advocate for greater flexibility for pregnant students and students with young children regarding campus support services, or in flexibility in retaining HOPE scholarships. Concern was also expressed regarding the challenges faced by programs in the health sciences regarding the comprehensive gynecological training of physicians as a result of the new law.
- g) There was general concern about faculty morale. A faculty survey conducted by TUFSS during COVID showed many faculty across the state reported a lack of institutional support, and a survey at UTK documented the burden of emotional and invisible labor for especially female and BIPOC faculty members. In response, at UTK the Provost has initiated a series of listening sessions with faculty groups, which may be a helpful example to follow on other campuses. Concern was expressed not only about burn-out but that some faculty members feel demoralized because of the recent Divisive Concepts law.
- h) Information is sought regarding the impact of requiring ACT or SAT tests for undergraduate admission across the system.

4. The meeting adjourned at 3:50/4:50pm.

Minutes prepared by Beauvais Lyons