

**Meeting Agenda****March 15, 2023 – 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
2. John Lacey – UT Grand Challenges Initiative
3. Approve Minutes - Please see attached
4. System Updates
  - a. Dr. Savarese
  - b. Dr. Etzkorn

## **UT Systemwide Topics/Questions for President Boyd**

- Recent state legislation and impact on free speech, academic freedom, and campus policies
- Performance gap between boys/girls and the use of standardized tests for admissions decisions

## Minutes

### **President Boyd**

- President Boyd provided an overview on several bills that are in the legislative process:
  - SB 817
  - SB 603
  - SB 102
  - SB 1445
  - HB 977
  - HB 1005
- Expansion to the Hope Scholarship will allow undergraduate students with monies remaining to begin graduate school and use the Hope Scholarship towards those graduate credits,
- Discussion of the State Building Commission Modernization Act and how this will improve the building process on college campuses,
- Discussion on the role of THEC moving forward,
- UTHSC – working with legislature to increase recurring funding from \$1 million proposed to \$10.7 million,
- Extensive work on capital projects,
- City of Knoxville is asking for funds for a pedestrian bridge near the UT Knoxville campus,
- Q&A
  - Abortion ban bills,
  - Impact of state legislation on receiving federal funds,
- Will be doing a campus tour in about 2 months to discuss the legislative session

### **John Lacey**

- Provided an overview of the UT Grand Challenge initiative
  - Go to: <https://grandchallenges.tennessee.edu> for more information
- General Q&A