

UFC Minutes - September 17, 2024

Absent: Jack Zibluk, Marcus Mauldin, and Stanton Belford

- **Call to Order**

Sean Walker, UFC Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm ET.

- **President Randy Boyd Update**

New student enrollment and retention increased for all campuses across the UT system. To support this growth, we are working closely to advocate with the TN legislature for up to \$3.6B in funding and capital projects across the system over the next decade. UT is also actively promoting the significant progress made at UT and focusing on effective communications to help counter some recent criticism from the Chattanooga Mayor.

- **Approve Minutes**

The August 21, 2024, meeting minutes were approved unanimously without revisions.

- **9-Month Sick Leave Policy Discussion**

Matt Matthews shared an overview of the proposed 9-month faculty sick-leave policies ahead of possible January 2025 implementation. The new policy includes an option for sick leave accrual for 9-month faculty at at least a 75% workload August thru April (with some exceptions for summer assignments), as well as existing modified duty assignment options. The new policy may require that faculty have more concrete start of work dates in August. Each campus will also need to have a clear process for approving and assigning modifying duties. Beth Crawford, Tracy McClinton, Scott Walker, Melissa Ryckman, Derek Alderman, and Bob DuBois asked clarifying questions and shared commentary relevant to the proposed policies, their consistent implementation, their documentation, and the impact it might have on the perceived transactional relationship between faculty and administrators.

- **System Updates: Dr. Bernie Saverese, VP of Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Success**

All UT system undergraduate campuses are now available on the Common App. UT is convening a system-wide enrollment council to promote collaboration across campuses. The UT Student Success Indicators report will be released publicly soon. A report of UT research expenditures will also be released publicly soon. Efforts to select a standard UT information system are underway.

The UT system is also working diligently to fill open positions. Several new employees are joining the UT system soon, and new employees are excelling in their roles. The Chief Wellness Officer continues to visit campuses to drive wellness across the UT system.

- **System Updates: Dr. Matt Matthews, AVP for Academic Affairs (*pending appointment to VP of Research, Outreach, and Economic Development*)**

A new Provost for UT Southern starts November 1, 2024.

UT System leaders are visiting the campuses over the next several months. Dr. Matthews hopes to visit briefly (preferably virtually) with each campus faculty senate to promote the upcoming 2025 Coach Survey and more.

Some policies relevant to the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting include accreditation and research policies, athletic reports, Coach Survey data review, and campus tenure and appointment decisions.

Derek Alderman asked if the UT system would report on faculty success (e.g., an infographic) for each campus as it shares student and research success indicators. Bernie Saverse and Matt Matthews enthusiastically supported this proposal.

- **End of Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm ET.