



Minutes of the Faculty Senate

Presiding: Jeffrey S. Berman (Psychology)

Date: 9-15-09

Secretary: Cynthia G. Tucker (English)

Senators Present: Narahari B. Achar (Physics), Thomas E. Banning (Engineering Tech), Jeffrey S. Berman (Psychology), Pinaki S. Bose (Economics), David C. Burchfield (Public Health), Gloria F. Carr (Nursing), Amy L. de Jongh Curry (Biomedical Engineering), Richard D. Evans (Fin, Ins, & Real Estate), Tarek R. Farhat (Chemistry), Edwin G. Frank (University Libraries), Richard L. Irwin (Health & Sport Science), Wade M. Jackson (Management Info Systems), Candace C. Justice (Journalism), David N. Lumsden (Earth Sciences), James M. Lukawitz (Accountancy), E. Trey Martindale (Instruction & Curriculum Leadership), Edward H. Perry (Mechanical Engineering), Lawrence A. Pivnick (Law School), Hoke Robinson (Philosophy), Stephan J. Schoech (Biology), William T. Segui (Civil Engineering), Keith D. Sisson (University College), Sharon A. Stanley (Political Science), Joseph C. Ventimiglia (Sociology), Kathryn S. Whitted (SUAPP), Robert R. Wiggins (Management), Yaschica D. Williams (Criminal Justice), and Amanda J. Young (Communication)

Senators Present by Proxy: Linda D. Jarmulowicz (Audiology & Speech-Lang Path, Caroline A. Royal Evans)

Senators Absent: Leonardo G. Altino (Music), Robert P. Connolly (Anthropology), Derek E. Hopp (Military Science, Navy Science), William H. Jermann (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Robert Kozma (Math Sciences) and Thomas E. Mason (Architecture)

TBR Representative: Wade M. Jackson (Management Info Systems)

Guests: Shirley C. Raines (University of Memphis President), David Cox (President's Office), Shannon Blanton (Provost's Office), Lee E. Allen (College of Education/Instruction & Curriculum Leadership) Information Officer

The three-hundred-and-seventy-third meeting of The University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, September 15, in the Auditorium (Room 124) of E.C. Ball Hall.

09.15.09.01 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. with a quorum present.

09.15.09.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved after being amended so President Raines could speak right after the minutes had been approved.

09.15.09.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 28, 2009 were approved unanimously.

09.15.09.04 Guest Speaker: Dr. Shirley Raines, President of the U of M

President Raines began by thanking the faculty for its part in improving the university's rate of retention. She voiced her appreciation, too, of the faculty's participation in the accreditation studies on which our school's reputation depends. She acknowledged the challenges that we face in these hard economic times. Our increased enrollment this term is good news, but the added income won't offset the newly announced one-tier cut in our state appropriations, which translates into a loss of six-million dollars. We will have to tighten our belts even more as we strive to maintain and upgrade our programs. A revised budget will be submitted in October.

President Raines moved on to respond to questions submitted by the Senate's standing committees:

1. Representing the Academic Support Committee, Chair R. Irwin, presented their question:

What is the university's commitment to the existing student evaluation protocol as a tool for assessing teaching effectiveness? For instance, what is the commitment to the current SETE (Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness) vendor and/or item content? Can SETE items be customized to fit content areas and/or delivery systems (on-line vs. on-campus)?

In response, President Raines stressed that SETEs are only one of the instruments used for assessing teaching effectiveness, and that they can only measure the extremes in student response. Describing herself as a strong believer in departmental self-governance, she urged the departments to work on providing additional, customized tools.

2. Representing the Administrative Policies Committee, Chair D. Lumsden, presented their question:

Is there a standard policy of the university regarding assignment of duties, hiring, and termination of graduate students?

While such guidelines exist, the President answered, they are scattered throughout the Faculty Handbook. She will ask her executive assistant, David Cox to bring these references into one place in the Handbook.

3. Representing the Faculty Policies Committee, Chair K. Sisson presented their question:

With the restructuring of higher education in Tennessee being considered by Governor Bredesen, do you (President Raines) envision the U of M faculty working alongside other university faculty across the state on collaborative research and implementation projects? If so, how do you view this proposed restructuring and how would you facilitate collaborations—i.e., travel money,

course releases, etc.? How would developing and maintaining collaborations be seen in light of tenure and promotion?

President Raines wants to see these activities continue regardless of structure, a decision that the Governor, who sits on both the UT and TBR boards, and maybe the legislature will make.

4. Representing the Library Policies Committee, Chair E. Frank presented their question:

What plan does the university administration have for continuing and increasing library support after the promised ARRA money dries up?

With a six-million-dollar cut in the university's budget, the President believes we will have to rely of vigorous fund-raising efforts if we are to meet current needs and increase support.

5. Representing the Research Policies Committee, Chair R. Evans presented their question:

Given that the harsh environment for funded research has been replaced by a period of heavy federal stimulus funding for university activity, what progress has been made to meet the vision of achieving the level of \$100 million in annual external funding by 2012?

Here President Raines is more optimistic, having seen more applications for external funding go out in the last three months of this past academic year than she has seen since taking office, in 2001. In addition, her office received some 80 proposals for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds. She also believes that the research foundation the U of M founded two years ago has helped in this effort.

6. Representing the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Immediate-Past-President E. Perry presented their question:

What is your view on how tenure and promotion requirements can be changed while a faculty member is progressing toward attaining tenure or promotion and still be fair to the faculty member?

President Raines repeated that she is a strong proponent of departmental self-governance, and that any changes ought to be made and refined at that level.

7. Representing the Academic Policies Committee, Chair, J. Lukawitz presented their question:

One way to help our budget situation is to increase enrollment. We hear much about efforts to recruit high school students but what efforts are being made to attract high-ability students from the community colleges? And have we looked at the retention rate for this group of students?

President Raines gave a brief description of our recruitment relationships with three Tennessee schools, two in Mississippi, and in Arkansas.

President J. Berman thanked President. Raines for speaking to us. President J. Berman continued with his President's Report to the senate.

09.15.09.05 Confirmation of Approved Summer Motions

Senators were reminded that while the Executive Committee is authorized to act on their behalf in the summer, when the full body does not meet, any motions it passes must be certified by the

group as a whole in the fall. The following motions were therefore put to a vote and approved unanimously:

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify the nomination of Cynthia G. Tucker (Department of English) to the position of Secretary of the Faculty Senate to replace the vacancy from the resignation of Linda C. Finch.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify the nominations in support of the recommendations of the Committee on Committees, Paul J. Palazolo (Department of Civil Engineering) and Carrie Brown (Department of Journalism) to serve as members of the Faculty Input Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify to ensure effective representation of University of Memphis faculty views, faculty who are approved by the Faculty Senate to serve as faculty representatives on administrative committees will be required to sign an *Agreement to Serve as Faculty Representative* form, acknowledging their responsibilities as faculty representative to (a) attend meetings of the committee to which they were appointed, (b) when possible, notify and seek the advice of the senate before voting on major committee issues, and (c) submit brief summary reports to the office of the senate following each committee meeting so that all faculty can be informed of committee activities.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify the request from the provost that the Faculty Senate search for and select a candidate for the position of Faculty Ombudsperson is accepted. The search is to be conducted by the Committee on Committees, with the aim of having an appointment by the end of the fall term.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify the nomination of Jeffrey S. Berman (Department of Psychology) to serve as the faculty representative on the 2009-10 Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee (TLAC).

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify the ad hoc *Budget and Finance Committee* shall be established, comprised of five (5) faculty members with financial expertise who can be either senators or non-senators. The committee is to have the following responsibilities: (a) to provide for campus-wide faculty input into university budgeting and planning processes, (b) to encourage the use of faculty expertise in evaluating budget and planning matters, and (c) to inform the faculty, through the Faculty Senate, about university budget decisions.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate ratify the ad hoc *Legislative Liaison Committee* shall be established, comprised of five (5) faculty members who can be either senators or non-senators.

The committee is to organize and coordinate messages about university faculty views to local legislators and the public media.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

09.15.09.06 Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) Position Paper On the Reorganization of Higher Education

President J. Berman explained the history of the TUFS Position Paper, the legislative environment, and the paper's significant elements. To date, he reported it has the endorsements of the Tennessee Conference of the AAUP and the faculties of Austin Peay University, UT Chattanooga, and MTSU. The faculties and/or administrations of UT Health Sciences Center, UT Knoxville, and Tennessee Tech have rejected it.

The U of M's Faculty Senate Executive Committee (EC) voted last week to "support a careful evaluation" of the paper's objectives: a more rational and efficient organization; greater ease in pursuing collaborate projects involving students and faculty; enhancement of research potential within and among institutions; seamless system-wide access to library resources for students and faculty; better geographical distribution of programs; and a flattening of the administration.

While the EC acknowledged the merits of bringing the technical schools and community colleges under a separate system, it deemed it unwise to endorse TUFS' proposal for structural reorganization.

President-Elect W. Jackson introduced the EC's motion that the Faculty Senate support the objectives of the TUFS paper but not the reorganization as presented.

Rationale

The University of Memphis Faculty Senate has been involved at a statewide level with the Association of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), which represents the faculty senates of all ten four-year public universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee systems. At its August meeting, TUFS approved a position statement on higher education that calls for (a) the separation of our governance from the two-year institutions and technical schools, (b) the merging of the four-year institutions in the current TBR and UT systems under a single governing body, and (c) the four-year institutions each having their own independent local advisory boards.

Some of the benefits envisioned by this reorganization include:

- Student and faculty exchange programs between university campuses
- Joint academic programs across multiple institutions
- Statewide system for library access and interconnected IT systems
- Flattening and reduction of administrative structures

This TUFS position paper—which has already received an endorsement from the Tennessee State Conference of the American Association of University Professors—is now before the member faculty senates across the state for their endorsement. It has been approved by the faculty senates at Austin Peay University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Motion to Senate

The University of Memphis Faculty Senate endorses the objectives outlined in the Position Paper on Higher Education approved by the Association of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) at its August 2009 meeting and supports careful evaluation of the proposed recommendations for improving the structure of higher education in the state of Tennessee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote September 15, 2009.

09.15.09.07 Committee on Committees Nominations

C. Justice, Chair of the Committee on Committees, put forward the nominations of individuals who have expressed an interest in serving and agreed to be nominees. Other nominations are pending and will be brought to the senate next month.

Ad Hoc Budget and Finance Committee:

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Kenneth R. Lambert (Accountancy) and Craig J. Langstraat (Accountancy) to serve on the ad hoc Budget and Finance Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Ad Hoc Legislative Liaison Committee:

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Stanley E. Stevens, (Biology) and J. Harvey Lomax (Political Science) to serve on the ad hoc Legislative Liaison Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Ad Hoc Faculty Input Committee:

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Wayne J. Pitts (Criminology and Criminal Justice) and Jin Yang (Journalism) to serve on the ad hoc Faculty Input Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Enterprise Systems Advisory Committee (ESAC):

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Thomas E. Banning (Engineering Technology) to serve on the Enterprise Systems Advisory Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Ad Hoc Faculty Grievance Committee:

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Joseph R. Hayden (Journalism) to serve on the ad hoc Faculty Grievance Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Ad Hoc Shared Governance Committee:

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Beena White (Journalism) to serve on the ad hoc Shared Governance Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Ad Hoc Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lectureship in Higher Education Committee

Move that the Faculty Senate elect David A. Patterson (Judaic Studies) to serve on the Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lectureship in Higher Education Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Dean's TAF (Technology Access Fees) Committee

Move that the Faculty Senate elect Jeffrey S. Berman (Psychology) to serve on the Dean's TAF (Technology Access Fees) Committee.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on September 15, 2009.

Nominations for the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Information Technology Committee will be presented at the Senate's next meeting in October.

09.15.09.08 Faculty Senate President's Report

1. Introduction of New Senators

President J. Berman introduced senators who have been elected since this senate's first meeting in April, those who were absent from the first meeting, and proxies for senators who could not be present today.

09.15.09.09 President-Elect's Report

1. The Faculty Handbook no longer includes the dubious language describing newly changed Tenure and Promotion standards as applicable to all candidates regardless of the criteria at the time they were hired. The phrasing of the statement that will replace it has not been resolved.

2. Summary of initiatives discussed in the July 2 letter from President Raines to President J. Berman:

- Host joint reception for Faculty and Staff Senate Representatives
- Formation of a new Administrative Council
- Department budgets online for all faculty
- Senate to select Faculty Ombudsperson
- Senators to take part in program reviews
- Support for faculty role in chair selection
- Representative on Technology Access Fees (TAF) Committee

09.15.09.10 Old Business

1. Reports from Standing Committees:

R. Evans, Chair of the Research Politics Committee, reported that his committee will be looking into the use of overhead funds to support the faculty's research.

E. Frank, Chair of the Library Policies Committee, reported that Dean Sylverna Ford (Dean of the University Libraries) met with his committee. And the committee endorsed the two recommendations made by the Chemistry Department faculty in June.

The other committees had no reports to present at this time but expect to have motions to bring to the floor when the Senate meets again in October.

All committee reports are now being posted online and can be read at <http://www.memphis.edu/facultysenate/committees/index.php>

09.15.09.11 New Business

There was no new business.

09.15.09 12 Announcements/Events

1. There will be a joint reception hosted by President Raines for the Faculty and Staff Senates on Tuesday, September 29, in the Entertainment Lobby of Rose Theater.
2. N1H1 flu information is available on the Provost's website at <http://www.memphis.edu/facres/>
3. All senators are invited to the annual Sustainable Technologies Awareness Day festivities on October 6, 2009, from 10a.m. until 2 p.m. on the U of M Student Plaza. Attendees who complete an energy conservation survey will receive a free T-shirt.

09.15.09.11 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.