



T·U·F·S

Tennessee University Faculty Senates

Representing over 10,000 united university faculty at ten state institutions of higher education

August 12, 2010

SENT VIA POSTAL MAIL AND E-MAIL

Senator Andy Berke
1500 Lynnhurst Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37405

Dear Senator Berke:

On behalf of the members of the Association of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), I want to thank you for your visit to our recent meeting this past weekend and your willingness to engage us in discussion of issues relating to higher education in Tennessee. Participants at the meeting were grateful to have this opportunity to talk with you, to have you listen to their comments, and to hear your perspectives on the recently enacted "Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010."

We are equally appreciative of your offer to arrange for TUFS to meet with the full Senate Education Committee. As you know, one of our concerns has been that views of public university faculty—the educators who actually do the teaching and research that are at the core of higher education and essential for the success of public higher education in the state—have not been included in a meaningful way when educational policy is being considered. As an organization that represents the faculty senates of all ten of the four-year public universities in Tennessee, TUFS could be a useful vehicle for allowing faculty views to become a part of conversations concerning policies and legislation affecting higher education. A meeting of the TUFS leadership with the Senate Education Committee would certainly be an excellent first step in that direction.

I look forward to hearing from you concerning the details of the proposed meeting with the committee. It was a pleasure and honor to meet you at the TUFS meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Berman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey S. Berman, President
Tennessee University Faculty Senates

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