



TUFS

Tennessee University Faculty Senates

Representing nearly 10,000 university faculty at ten state institutions of higher education.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2009

Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) today issued a Position Paper on Higher Education (attached), calling for careful consideration by state government of a list of nine recommendations, including unification of the University of Tennessee (UT) and Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) systems. TUFS is an association of the four-year state university faculty senates, representing nearly 10,000 higher education faculty in Tennessee.

The Position Paper, drafted by representatives of the faculty senates, has been debated over the past month by all ten of the university faculty senates in the UT and TBR system. Five of the ten have endorsed the paper outright. These are: Austin Peay State University, UT Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University and East Tennessee State University. Four (UT Knoxville, UT Health Science Center, UT Martin and Tennessee Tech) have declined to endorse it. The University of Memphis endorsed the objectives of the paper but not its recommendations, though it called for “careful consideration” of the recommendations.

Appended to the Position Paper is a document entitled *Dissenting Statements* that contains statements prepared by the Presidents of the faculty senates of the four UT/TBR universities that endorsed no part of the TUFS Position Paper. They summarize the objections raised against the Position Paper by these faculty senates.

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