



Faculty Senate

Presiding: Stanley E. Stevens

Date: 2-20-07

Secretary: Teresa S. Dalle

Senators Present: Jan R. Acuff, Jerry L. Anderson, Reza Banai, Melvin L. Beck, Jeffrey S. Berman, Joel Bumgardner, Laurenda K. Cunningham, Chhabil Dass, Steven Fell, Linda C. Finch, Gary K. Golightly, Wade M. Jackson, William H. Jermann, Balaji C. Krishnan, J. Harvey Lomax, David N. Lumsden, Susan Magun-Jackson, Sanjay R. Mishra, Dave A. Nofsinger, Albert A. Okunade, Edward H. Perry, John R. Petry, Alan W. Proffitt, Margaret Quinn, Jean-Pierre Reed, Hoke Robinson, Leslie S. Scruggs, Jr., Daniel L. Unowsky, Bette R. Veteto, Francisco Vivar, and Lecolion Washington

Senators Present by Proxy: David W. Case (Thaddeus Pope)

Senators Absent: Anthropology (vacant), Jennifer A. Borek, Carol O. Eady, Candace C. Justice, Walter G. Kirkpatrick, John M. Malloy (explained), and Howard S. Tu

T.B.R. Rep: Charles J. Biggers

Guests: David N. Cox (President Office), Chrisann Schiro-Geist (Academic Affairs), Thomas Nenon (Academic Affairs), and Robert J. Frankle

The three hundred fifty-second meeting of The University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, February 20, 2007, in The Zone of the FedEx Institute of Technology.

02.20.07.01 CALL TO ORDER

President Stanley E. Stevens called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

02.20.07.02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

02.20.07.03 GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Paula Short, Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and a professor at Tennessee State University, was the guest speaker. Dr. Short, who has a Ph.D. in Administrative and Supervision, has taught at several universities and is the author of many articles. Now at the TBR, Dr. Short wanted to respond to faculty concerns. She stated that since most of her career has been spent as a professor, she is a strong supporter of teaching. Noting that the University of Memphis is the research

university of the TBR, she said that when she joined the board she realized that the TBR did not have a good understanding of the research as well as the teaching mission of the University, and she has tried to advocate for more research dollars. She provides the board with an annual report on research, highlighting faculty research. For example, she highlighted the Blue Crush project that got media attention to demonstrate the contribution of the University of Memphis to the community. She assured the faculty that the TBR honors what the faculty has been doing and that Dr. Shirley Raines, President of The University of Memphis, has kept Dr. Short informed of the faculty's contributions. Taking seriously the strategic planning process, the TBR will travel to The University of Memphis in May. She stated that strategic plans are dynamic tools that help in developing plans and benchmarks. She announced that there would be four forums across state about strategic plans.

Questions and Dr. Short's Responses:

Question One: Will TBR take a lead in on-line instruction?

Dr. Short's Response: Yes, the e-learning initiative has taken a lead, and over 8000 students study in on-line RODP courses not counting the specific school's numbers. The RODP degrees meet a standard, and we are a leader in the state of Tennessee in that regard. Some think that we have lost the classroom dynamic, but on-line instruction provides access to those who otherwise could not participate; we are in the top three e-learning groups in the nation, and we are careful about the product we offer. We are looking at modules faculty can share and at taking things to the next level with podcasting and other ways of enhancing learning. We do not want to lose quality.

Question Two: There is some concern about the Hope Scholarship and its effects. What is your opinion about the cutoff score for maintaining Hope? We might look at the effect of cutoff scores as they relate to high and low economic levels. Some areas require 2.2 or 2.5 for graduation; there is a disparity that might negatively affect minorities.

Dr. Short's Response: We should continue to hold it at its current level because we have to give students in high school something to work for. If we set expectations higher, students will aspire. Actually, the legislature is looking at 60 different bills that might change the Hope Scholarship. There is a problem but lowering GPA is not a solution. We need to attack the problems at the K-12 level and work with students early so that groups are competitive. If we start early enough, we can do something so that colleges do not have to remediate. Perhaps a temporary lowering of requirements might be feasible.

Question Three: What are obstacles in getting research dollars from TBR?

Dr. Short's Response: The University of Tennessee system gets in front of TBR for funding. The University of Tennessee (UT) system got \$8 million this year while the TBR system got nothing. UT has strong ties with individual legislators through various county offices and have more political influence than we do. We can use our research stories, especially those that improve the economy.

Question Four: What is your opinion about accepting different GPAs in various colleges? Those departments that are more quantitative in their work might be allowed more leeway in Hope scholarship acceptances.

Dr. Short's Response: There has been very little discussion. Having many scholarships with different requirements and using different metrics is complicated. The state wants to keep it simple—one GPA and one ACT. The legislature will not work with something more complicated. There are no solutions to keep students from shying away from courses that might hurt their GPA so that they can keep scholarships.

Question Five: How does the TBR structure work in a way to get faculty input?

Dr. Short's Response: For policy changes such as common calendar, retention, and workload, we will put a task force together. We see that as a way of giving voice to campuses. Campuses also have a voice through their representative to the faculty sub-council. Also, all academic policies must be reviewed by the academic sub-council and the faculty sub-council. We also have a student affairs sub-council that meets quarterly; there are no changes in policy without review. A report is then made to the President's sub-council, which takes the final vote. That way faculty has a formal voice. There is also a faculty Regent that speaks for faculty. There are formal and on-going ways that the faculty have input. Also, faculty can call or send e-mail if they wish to provide more input.

Question Six: Who is the faculty regent? Also, do we have a student regent? What about TBR criteria for tenure? Are they listed in the Faculty Handbook?

Dr. Short's Response: Dr. Short said that Robert Scott McMillan at (VolState) Volunteer State Community College, Livingston campus is the Faculty Regent, but the position alternates. Nominations come from the campuses, but the Governor makes the final decision. Recommendations come to the Chancellor and sent on to the governor. The practice is to rotate positions. NOTE: source Faculty Sub-Council Minutes October 20, 2000: *Selection process for faculty regent*

The faculty regent is a voting member of the Tennessee Board of Regents with a one-year rotation among universities, two-year institutions, and technology centers. During the rotation cycle the designated institution nominates a representative and the governor appoints. Since the president makes the nomination, the Faculty Senate should work with the institution's administration to establish a procedure for faculty input.

The Faculty Handbook is on the website, but each campus has its own tenure policies that cannot conflict with board policy. They can be more rigorous but not less.

President E. Stevens thanked Dr. Short for coming, and former Faculty Senate President, Sheryl Maxwell presented Dr. Short with flowers. The current Senate, represented by its Administrative Secretary, Carolyn Featherstone, presented to Dr. Short a University of Memphis tote bag filled with various items featuring the University of Memphis logo. Dr. Short thanked the Senate.

02.20.07.04 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 23, 2007, meeting were approved as written with changes.

02.20.07.05 REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

1. Committee on Committees – A. Okunade
The committee chair stated that there was no report.
2. Academic Policies – L. Scruggs
The chair submitted several recommendations to be considered at the March Senate meeting. Some minor changes are needed for those recommendations.
3. Academic Support – J. Petry (SIRS)
J. Petry asked the Senate to look over the report on SIRS provided to each Senator. He noted that faculty are being asked to participate in designing SIRS items for various types of courses. A task force that reports to the Academic Support Committee will create a set of SIRS items that reflect university-wide concerns. W. Jackson will work on SIRS forms for on-line classes. J. Petry invited any suggestions and invited anyone wishing to work on the task force to contact him.
4. Administrative Policies –R. Banai
The committee chair indicated that he will be attending a meeting with Dr. David Cox and will report later on.
5. Faculty Policies – J. Berman
The committee chair stated that there was no report.
6. Library Policies – L. Cunningham
The committee chair stated that there was no report.
7. Research Policies – J. Bumgardner
The committee chair stated that there was no report.

02.20.07.06 REPORTS OF FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Ad hoc Committee on Library Allocations-E. Stevens
President E. Stevens stated that the committee was trying to find a means of allocating funds with a flat library budget.
2. Academic Assessment—W. Kirkpatrick
They will identify those programs showing poor graduation rates and invite department chairs of programs to come before the committee.
3. Effort Certification-E. Stevens
President E. Stevens stated that the work team goal is to make completing the Effort Certification form as painless as possible. He stated that there are federal laws governing issues such as reporting on external funding.
4. Enrollment Management Council-E. Stevens
The council is looking at advising at the university with a purpose of finding out if the system is working or needs overhaul. Their goal is to establish best practices and anticipate potential problems on enrollment.

Currently, the university is late getting letters to students, but attempts are being made to speed up the process.

5. Policy Review Board-E. Stevens
President E. Stevens stated that a light modification of what constitutes tenure is being made but has gone back for review.
6. University Undergraduate Council (UUC) - W. Jackson
The chair stated that there was no meeting.

02.20.07.07 FACULTY SUB-COUNCIL REPORT

The agenda of the Faculty Sub-Council meeting on January 26, 2007, was provided to each Senator. The Senate was reminded of the Electronic Records Requirements, which require university personnel to keep all e-mails, especially those that be used in any future litigation.

02.20.07.08 OLD BUSINESS

1. Charges

CHARGE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	STATUS
Intellectual Property	Intellectual Property Student Property	Research Policies Committee	Continue
Green Power	Green Power Switch	Administrative Policies Committee	New
Grievance Process	University Grievance Process	Faculty Policies Committee	Finished
Shared Governance	Shared Governance	Ad hoc Committee on Shared Governance	New
SIRS	On-Line SIRS	Academic Support Committee	Continue
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity	Academic Policies Committee	Motion phase

02.20.07.09 NEW BUSINESS

1. Avian Influenza Committee—President Stevens asked if there was anyone wishing to serve on the university Influenza Committee. Linda Finch from Nursing volunteered. The name will be submitted to the Committee on Committees for approval. The name then goes to Dr. Rosie. Bingham, Vice President, Student Affairs.

2. J. Berman asked if there were any changes to be made to the Faculty Handbook. President E. Stevens stated that currently there were no changes, but that it was unclear whether there may be changes in the near future. There is no current deadline for changes, but the Executive Committee has recommended two deadlines, one in fall and

one in spring. President E. Stevens then announced that information on the evaluation of deans and administrators would be forwarded to the Faculty Policies Committee. President Stevens also announced that the motion from the Grievance Committee has been sent to Sheryl Lipman, the university lawyer.

02.20.07.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lectureship in Higher Education,

Speaker: Alan Lightman, February 26, 2007, at 7 pm, in the Psychology Auditorium, TOPIC: “The Physicist as Novelist: Similarities and Differences on how scientist and artists view the world”

Daylight Saving Time starts early: March 11- November 4, 2007, dictated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Up ‘til Dawn (UTD), national year-long fundraising event that benefits St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. UTD was started at the University of Memphis and now has spread to over 180 campuses nation-wide. For additional information visit: www.utdmemphis.com or phone 678-0106

Faculty Scholarship Week and Twentieth Annual Faculty

Convocation will be held April 15-19, 2007. For more information, the Senators were asked to visit the following website:

<http://academics.memphis.edu/provost/convocation-2007.html>

Dr. Chrisann Schiro-Geist, Sr. Vice Provost, Academic Programs, announced that in addition to the annual faculty convocation, the Friends of the Library group is sponsoring Faculty Scholarship Week, April 15-19, in collaboration with University Library staff as well as Academic Affairs and Special Events.

02.20.07.10 ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Dalle, Secretary