



## Minutes of the Faculty Senate

**Presiding:** Richard D. Evans (Fin, Ins, & Real Estate)

**Date:** 3-25-14

**Secretary:** Cynthia G. Tucker (English)

**Senators Present:** Charles D. Bailey (Accountancy), Jeffrey S. Berman (Psy), Lawrence B. Blackwell (Thea & Dance), Patti Bradford (Univ College), David C. Burchfield (Public Health), Charles W. Crawford (History), Jill A. Dapremont (Nursing), Dipankar Dasgupta (Computer Sci), Maria E. Delavega (Social Work), Michael R. Duke (Anthropology), Richard D. Evans (Fin, Ins, & Real Estate), Donald R. Franceschetti (Physics), Edwin G. Frank (Univ Libraries), Michail Gkolias (Civil Engr), Reginald L. Green (Leadership), Michael G. Huffman (Health & Sport Sci), Eddie Jacobs (Elec & Computer Engr), Donna R. Jones (Law), Benwari Kedia (Management), Erno Lindner (Biomedical Engr), J. Harvey Lomax (Political Science), Lisa Lucks Mendal (Comm Sci & Disorders), Jiada Mo (Mech Engr), Robert Kozma (Math Sci), Cedar L. Nordbye (Art), Larry R. Petersen (Sociology), Heike Polster (Foreign Lang & Lit), Timothy D. Roche (Philosophy), Sandra J. Sarkela (Comm), Steven D. Schwartzbach (Biology), James C. McCutcheon (Crim & Criminal Justice), R. Jeffrey Thieme (Mrktng & Suply Chain Mang), Roy B. Van Arsdale (Earth Sci), Yongmei Wang (Chemistry), Ryan T. Williams (Couns Ed, Psy & Res), James F. Williamson (Architecture)

**Senators Present by Proxy:** Wade M. Jackson (Manag Info Systems) Sandra Richardson

**Senators Absent:** Economics (vacant), Mil Sci ROTC (vacant), Sch Urb Aff & Pub Pol (vacant), Thomas E. Banning (Engr Tech), Michael M. Grant (Instr & Curr Ldrship), Evan T. Jones (Music)

**TBR Representative:** Reginald L. Green (Leadership)

**Faculty Senate Information Officer:** Maria E. Delavega (Social Work)

**Guests:** David Cox (President Office), Henry Kurtz (Provost Office), Lawrence A. Pivnick (Faculty Ombudsperson), Kenneth Lambert (Accoutancy/Budget Working Group), Jennifer Backer (The Commercial Appeal)

The four-hundred-and-sixteenth meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in the Senate Chambers of the University Center.

### 3.25.14. 01 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. with a quorum present.

### **3.25.14.02 Approval of Agenda.**

Before the agenda's approval was called, President R. Evans spoke briefly about the Executive Committee's (EC's) unanimous decision [C. Tucker, unavoidably absent, had not cast a vote] against giving Mate Wierdl time to speak except during the Forum. The motion to change the agenda passed, and the altered agenda was approved.

### **3.25.14.03 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for February 18, 2014, were approved as submitted.

### **3.25.14.04 New Business**

1. Recommendations by the Committee on Committees: C. Nordbye, chair made the following motions:

a. Nominees to the University Undergraduate Council (UUC) Subcommittee (to recommend policy on granting college credit for non-academic experiences):

Ray Austin Fisher (Music), Frances Fabian (Management), Michail Gkolias (Engineering)  
**Adopted by unanimous voice vote on March 25, 2014.**

b. A nominee to serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee:

Wade Jackson (Management Information Systems)  
**Adopted by unanimous voice vote on March 25, 2014.**

2. Motion on Class Attendance Policy—Academic Policies Committee: **Postponed**

3. Motion on Changes in General Education (GE) Curriculum—Academic Policies Committee

The Academic Policies Committee move that the Faculty Senate approve the addition of an elective course on women's studies to the General Education Curriculum.

**Adopted by voice vote with 2 nays on March 25, 2014.**

4. Motion on TBR Evaluating Central Administration Staffing and Costs: H. Polster made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee,

“That the Faculty Senate request that the TN Board of Regents (TBR) begin added activity evaluating and regulation efficiency in central administration staffing and cost.”

After discussion, this **motion was tabled** to give R. Green, our representative to the TBR Faculty Sub-Council more time and flexibility to pursue this through that group.

5. Motion on Faculty Survey on Performance of Deans, Provost, President: M. Delavega made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee,

“That the Faculty Senate's instrument for faculty members' evaluation of administrators' above the chair level be adjusted so that anonymous comments will not be made public. They would still be available to the administrators.” The discussion, once having produced compelling arguments pro and con, found a compromise in substitute motion that J. Berman made to replace the original wording as follows: “That the survey to be conducted this spring use the same procedure as in the past regarding comments posted publically on the FS website. However, the survey will have additional language reminding respondents that they're expected to respond in a professional manner.” If the perceived problems remain, the issue will be revisited by the senate next year.

**Adopted by show of hands, 21 for, 11 against, and 1 abstention on March 25, 2014.**

6. Motion Supporting Reform of U of M Budgeting Model: R. Green made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee:

“That the Faculty Senate recommend reform in The University of Memphis budgeting model.” Reflecting the body’s concerns about the language’s vagueness, the motion’s intent, and what this ambiguous motion would really accomplish, the discussion found resolution in an amending motion made by S. Schwartzbach: “That the Faculty Senate provide periodical input into the development of the new U of M budgeting model.”

**Adopted by unanimous voice vote on March 25, 2014.**

7. Motion to Place M. Wierdl on Agenda Under Reports for April 15: S. Schwartzbach made the following motion: “That we make M. Wierdl’s report the first order of business at our next meeting and give him 15 minutes to speak with another 5 minutes for questions.”

**Adopted by voice vote on March 25, 2014.**

### **3.25.14.05 President’s Report**

1. March Election of Senators: Senators were reminded that if their term is about to expire and they don’t intend to serve next year, they need to inform the FS office if there’s to be a contested election.

2. Planning for Continuity of Standing Committees: Standing Committees should designate someone who’ll be in the senate again next year to run the election of the new chair at the new senate’s meeting on April 29.

3. Search for Faculty Ombudsperson: The faculty will soon be getting an email from Carolyn Featherstone, FS Office calling for names of any who wish to run for this position. Meanwhile, the Faculty Ombudsman search committee will be populated with three faculty members chosen by our Faculty Policies Committee (FPC) and three people chosen by the president’s office. The FPC will send its slate to the Committee on Committees in time for a confirmation vote on April 15. The search committee, in turn, will select one person for the FS’s confirmation on April 29.

4. A New Charge to the Faculty Policies Committee (FPC): The Executive Committee charged the FPC with evaluating policies and making recommendations pertaining to faculty salary inequities.

5. Budget Working Group Meeting: The Budget Working Group plans a report on budget cuts and conditions for the Senate’s April 15, 2014 meeting.

6. Steering Committee on the University of Memphis Budgeting Model: The committee has developed some agreement on variables to apply cost allocations with. A name for the University of Memphis version has been selected, Strategic Resource Investment (SRI) model. A web site has been put up with budgeting developments being provided: [www.memphis.edu/sri](http://www.memphis.edu/sri) .

7. Presidential Search: The four candidates have visited campus, with faculty input being accepted until March 26.

### **3.25.14.06 Reports**

1. Academic Policies Committee: B. Kedia, chair requested the motion on Class Attendance Policy be withdrawn from the agenda and the FS agreed. The committee’s process of moving its work on this policy forward has become “chaotic and nebulous.” Informal and ad hoc groups are attempting to reach compromise wording.

2. Academic Support Committee: P. Bradford, chair had no report.

3. Faculty Policies Committee: E. Jacobs, chair had no report.
4. Research Policies Committee: R. Van Arsdale, chair had no report.
5. Administrative Policies Committee: L. Petersen, chair had no report.
6. Library Policies Committee: T. Hrach chair and member of Redefining the Library Committee (formerly, The Library Visioning Committee) states that the committee has been active. And a report from the Redefining the Library Committee should be ready by the end of May.

### **Old Business**

1. The previous motion Opposing Academic Boycotts, introduced and tabled at the February 18, 2014 meeting of the FS was deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following substitute motion by J. Lomax.

#### Statement on Academic Freedom and Intellectual Exchange

Substitute motion: The University of Memphis Faculty Senate supports the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)'s strong endorsement of academic freedom and stated disappointment in proposals by one or two other groups to boycott Israeli scholars and academic institutions. Like the AAUP, we take no position on the Arab-Israeli or Palestinian-Israeli conflicts. We favor the promotion of science, scholarship, and intellectual exchange across the globe.

Adopted by voice vote on March 25, 2014.

### **3.25.14.07 Announcements**

1. Faculty Senate Calendar: <http://www.memphis.edu/facultysenate/calendar.php>
2. Women's History Month 2014: With the theme "Inspiring Women" the U of M will host a full schedule of programs, music and lectures during the Month of March. Many of the events are open to the public and free of charge. For more information, visit <http://www.memphis.edu/crow/whm/womenshistorymonth.php>
3. 2014-15 Faculty Senate Election: elections are to take place in March. Current senator will serve as the election official unless the current senator is a nominee for election. Nominations may be by written petition signed by at least three faculty members and by open nomination from the floor. Voting shall be by secret ballot unless a nominee is uncontested.
4. Africa in April, Cultural Awareness Festival: April 16 - 20, 2014 at Robert R. Church Park (Historic Beale Street District), Downtown Memphis. The Festival will showcase the Republic of Burkina Faso. For more information visit: <http://www.africainapril.org/>. One of the many sponsors of this event is the College of Communications and Fine Arts
5. Study Week: April 28 – May 1, 2014. For more information, see UM Policy #1704, Study Week and Final Examination Scheduling, available at <http://policies.memphis.edu/UM1704.htm>.

### **3.25.14.08 Adjourn: 4:30 p.m.**