

TUFS Fall 2016 Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Shela VanNess (TUFS President-UTC)
Sandi Smith (TUFS Secretary-TTU)

Achintya Ray (TSU-voting)
Michael Catanzaro (TSU)

Bob Bradley (UTM-voting)

Mary Martin (MTSU-voting)
Joes Gray (MTSU)
Bill Canak (MTSU)
Tricia Farwell (MTSU)

Bonnie Ownley (UTK-voting)
Martin Griffin (UTK)

Joanie Sompayrac (UTS-voting)
H. Lyn Miles (UTC; past TUFS President)

Randy Byington (ETSU-voting; TUFS President-elect)
Virginia Foley (ETSU)

Tom Banning (U of M)
Jeff Berman (U of M)

Christy Killman (TTU-voting)
Jeff Roberts (TTU; past TUFS President)

Tucker Brown (APSU-voting)
Rod Mills (APSU)
Adriane Sanders (APSU)

The meeting commenced on Friday September 23, 2016 with a meet and greet (5:15 PM) and dinner (6:15) provided by TSU.

Saturday, September 24, 2017

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Shela VanNess at 8:45 AM.

Minutes

Approval of minutes from the Spring 2016 meeting (unanimous).

TUFS Presidency Discussion

1. Discussion ensued concerning the Presidency of TUFS and the rotation of UT system and TBR (about to be former TBR system) schools.
2. Motion (Virginia), Second (Tom) to ask local Senates for input about whether or not it is still necessary to rotate between TBR/UT System schools (unanimous).
3. Motion (Lyn), Second (Martin) to modify standing rules to define the TUFS Presidential term to begin in Fall from July 1 to June 30th of the following year (unanimous).
4. Motion (Martin), Second (Tom) for Randy Byington to assume position immediately following the meeting and serve until June 30, 2018 (unanimous).

Introductions

Brief introductions of members occurred (see Members Present above).

Next Meeting (location/date)

UTC will host the Spring 2017 meeting on March 31-April 2 or April 7-9 (vote to occur tomorrow).

Campus Reports

UTM (Bob Bradley)

1. SACCOB probation through next year. Lengthy SACSCOC report has been submitted. A visiting team will be on campus October 4-6 to interview faculty and staff. Training workshops have been scheduled to improve assessment and data collection. Hopeful for the removal of the probation.
2. Only 17 faculty/staff members have applied for gun carry permits on campus.
3. Overall enrollment is down 1.8% but FTE is down 5.5% much attributed to Tennessee Promise and one of the largest graduations. On a positive note--the class may be the smallest, it is the most talented.
4. The search committee identified four candidates for the new Chancellor. Each delivered presentations on campus recently. They are happy with their new Chancellor.
5. Development at UT Martin is underway with the academic space/press box at Hardy Graham Stadium and recent USDA federally funded grants.

TSU (Achintya Ray)

1. Continued praise about the new President Glenda Glover.
2. Non-instructional assignment approved--eligible every 7 years.
3. Faculty sick bank created.
4. Revamping undergraduate appeal process.
5. New handbook unanimously approved the Faculty Handbook.
6. Faculty salaries are low. A Senate budget committee is working on a solution.
7. Working to develop a unified registration process.
8. Research is robust.
9. A new Health Sciences building is in the works.

MTSU (Mary Martin)

1. SACSCOC Accreditation fully achieved with NO comments or requirements.
2. Enrollment is slightly down (1.8%). Enrollment has increased for first time Freshmen.
3. With the increase in graduations, focus will shift toward the Sophomore year.
4. The book bundling campaign was dropped at the end of last year.
5. Selection of Faculty Board member complete (a copy is available in our shared folder).
6. MTSU has a new Interim Provost--Mark Byrnes.
7. MTSU is searching for a new Vice President of Research and a Dean of the the Graduate School.
8. Guns on Campus--approximately 70 faculty/staff of 3000 employees have registered for carrying on campus (2% of total eligible population).
9. MTSU would like input/more information about Faculty Handbooks, Salary Plans, Budget Status, Workload forms, and Faculty Computer configurations.

UTK (Bonnie Ownley)

1. UTK Chancellor search is underway following the announcement that Chancellor Cheek is stepping down to return to a faculty role. Parker Executive was hired to lead the search. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for mid-October.
2. 93% of faculty did not want guns on campus. Chief Lane shared locations of areas where employees will not be permitted to carry on campus.
3. The Faculty Senate Diversity Task Force held several meetings to discuss Public Chapter 1066 and its implementation.
4. Two FS Executive Council Resolutions: 1.) Have the FS communicate through its website and listserv information for faculty wishing to accommodate students who use names or pronouns differing from that which appears on the class roll; 2.) In an effort to support UTK Pride Center, the Chancellor should address the following concerns: a) Affirm the right of the Pride Ambassadors to select a faculty advisor of their choosing; b) Make arrangements to allocate additional storage and meeting space for the Pride Center; c) Ensure that the Center will be open at least as many hours as the past academic year; d) Continue Safe Zone Training for students, faculty, and staff without compromising quality.

5. The Faculty Senate retreat held on August 26, 2016 was a success with a large turnout and over 100 topics and speakers.
6. The Faculty Senate Report on Faculty compared current conditions to those from 2007. The summary is available in their Senate report.
7. A voter registration drive is underway.
8. The Faculty Senate is sponsoring an open forum in October to address issues of free speech.

APSU (Tucker Brown)

1. Optimistic about Focus Act changes.
2. Implemented Strategic Plan to grow enrollment.
3. Received largest raise in their history (7-8%).
4. About to name Board appointment.
5. Expressed concern about the number of new Vice Presidents who were not there before.
6. Faculty workload is being revisited.
7. Concerns about converting Chairs to full-time teaching when hired by Deans and not faculty.
8. Hired Associate Provost who stepped down after 6 months.

UTC (Joanie Sompayrac)

1. Trying to revise their handbook (or be forced to do so) for the first time since the 1970's.
2. A Parking task force is evaluating and overhauling the parking system due to growth.
3. A new policy on student ratings of faculty and administrator ratings by faculty (would love to see results published)
4. Migration to Office 365 to help faculty efficiency is happening.
5. Enhanced Post Tenure Performance Review is being reduced from three years to one to remove a tenured faculty member.
6. Enrollment is up 1.3%.

ETSU (Virginia Foley)

1. Faculty selection to the Board finalized and being implemented.
2. Many policies are being examined/reexamined.
3. Guns on campus: 23 have registered to carry. The university has published locations where guns may or may not be carried on campus (child care, university school, medical school, etc.)
4. Executive Committee sent Governor a letter asking to veto Guns on Campus.
5. Enrollment is down 280 students. Last year it was flat.
6. Rumours about inappropriate contact (relations) between faculty and students have apparently proven true.
7. FSLA money is proving tough to find. Annual leave is being modified.

UT Memphis (Tom Banning)

1. Election of Board member is expected to take place by December.
2. Faculty Handbook is being revisited and revised. Administrative volunteers are reviewing the materials.
3. Faculty Ombudsperson is involved in grievance procedures--very helpful in brokering communication.
4. (See Report)

TTU (Christy Killman)

1. Final meetings for the Spring 2016 semester focused on policy changes and revisions in anticipation of the new board which include: Tenure and Promotion, Academic Misconduct, and Personal Mobile Devices.
2. Parking is causing a great deal of concern with the changes in fees and locations.
3. Transparency of Administrative level meetings is causing concern. Senate has repeatedly ask for greater communication before or during issues as opposed to after.
4. Lack of funding support as originally promised with the new Carnegie classification is problematic.
5. Campus security has been the topic of a few discussions. Locks for classroom doors are being installed. Consultants are being considered.
6. Other concerns included the overabundance of required training modules, the disconnect between administration and faculty, inefficiencies of the Banner system, being told "NO" by administration instead of met with a listening ear, new parking policies, maternity leave policy, and workload inconsistencies across departments.
7. The current and past four presidents were charged with the task of reviewing each new policy in preparation for transition to the new board structure.
8. New procedures were written about the election process of the new faculty board representative by an ad hoc committee of Faculty Senators.
9. Efforts are being made to implement a discussion board on the Faculty Senate website to initiate open conversation about issues.
10. One of the greatest issues dealt with recently was an improper attempt at curriculum development.

Focus Bill

Afternoon discussion was dominated by Focus Act discussion.

Positives were seen as:

1. Ability to customize to local needs.
2. Lack of TBR managing discounts and shared expenditures.
3. Changing identity away from TBR.
4. Independent financial decision-making.

Concerns were:

1. The relationship between boards and THEC.
2. THEC's role in the budget (potentially another layer)

3. Potential lack of recourse if boards are not functioning effectively.
4. Potential costs of maintaining the boards and meetings.
5. Ethical impetus of board members to focus on campus issues, not faculty.
6. Suggested a poll to find out whether or not staff members were permitted to vote.

Tennessee Promise

1. Tennessee Promise helped Austin Peay where Memphis was unaffected.
2. Some community colleges had a “real boom”.

Conversation with TSU’s President Glenda Glover



September 25, 2016 at 10:09 AM

Meeting with TSU President

Candid conversation about impact of FOCUS.

Her recent trip to Washington DC

Issues related to guns on campus

- Biggest concern is upcoming giving students right to carry

- Small percentage of faculty have attained permits at the represented schools.

Mary raised concerns about recent attitude of "hate" by legislature maltreatment of higher education (guns on campus, no raise for higher ed employees when every state employee received a raise except higher ed, and.)

Focus may have distracted universities fighting original guns on campus bill. We need to band together to fight the bill. The only difference between a high school student and a college student is three months.

What if students went to legislators to complain about escalating tuition due to lack of funding by the state.

Survey from Georgia Tech (Campus carry survey)--24 to 76 are for them.
Overwhelmingly against.

Lynne asked if we should pass a resolution against student guns on campus or wait until a survey is conducted at each campus.

What is the motive for allowing guns on campus versus other prohibited locations?
Concerns about apathy toward higher education.

Final advice...she recommended making resolutions instead of "discussions" should result from the meeting as she headed out for the Titans game.

Send out to press...resolves, etc. for publicity.



Long Island University Conflict

Shela explained at length the situation involved in the Long Island University Conflict.

(See "Inside Higher Ed" support files)

Significant time was used to divide into groups and coin potential resolutions from TUFs.

Resolution 1--LIU Resolution

Motion (Lyn), Second (Martin) to present the resolution to each TUFs Faculty Senate.

Guns on Campus

Resolution 2--Guns on Campus

Motion (Martin), Second (Tom) to present the resolution to each TUFs Faculty Senate.

Further discussion on possible ways to address the issue:

--Encourage SGAs to do a signature campaign or poll about guns on campus.

A third resolution to allow staff level board members the right to vote was not fully addressed do to lack of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Smith-Andrews

PROPOSED TUFs LIU RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the administration of Long Island University (LIU), during a contract dispute, took the unprecedented action of locking out all faculty members, barring them from access to campus, email, and health care benefits, and,

WHEREAS for the first week of classes, the administration of LIU staffed classes with administrators and other replacements unqualified to instruct the courses they were assigned.

SUCH ACTIONS show disrespect for the faculty, disregard for the quality of instruction in classes, and disservice to their student body.

WHEREAS the lockout ended only after students protested these actions, and

WHEREAS these actions by the LIU administration suggest a total disregard for the principle of shared governance traditional in American universities, and

WHEREAS the American Association of University Professors, the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association, and faculty of other universities have condemned this action,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFs) also condemn the actions taken by the LIU administration in this matter.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED That TUFs communicate this resolution to the President of LIU and the LIU Faculty Federation.

Resolution 2 Guns on Campus

Proposed resolution—Guns on Campus for Students

WHEREAS, the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), which represents over 10,000 faculty at ten public universities, supports the position of campus law enforcement and safety officials that allowing students to have guns on campus will increase the incidence of events of violence, and

WHEREAS, allowing students to have guns on campus will foster a hostile work environment for faculty, staff, and students employed on campus,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the membership of TUFS strongly opposes any legislation that will allow students to have guns on campus.

Next Meeting

Two potential dates were proposed for the next meeting (March 31-April 2, 2017 or April 7-9, 2017). Initially, little preference was offered. After brief discussion a vote was taken and 7 votes preferred March 31-April 2, 2017.

The meeting will be held at UTC.