

TUFS August 8 – 10, 2014

Minutes

The meeting began with only Tennessee State and UT Martin missing. Randy Byington welcomed all to ETSU and the region.

Video greetings came from Fred Alsup. He described how and when TUFS began. It first met in April 2008 at Fall Creek Falls. TUFS now represents 10,000 faculty across the state.

Approval of minutes from August 2013 (there was no spring 2014 meeting) followed. Motion by Tom Schacht. Second by Mercy Cannon. Approved by acclamation.

Friday morning began with Faculty Senate reports. Full reports were to be posted on the website.

Beginning at 10:45, Dr. Houston Davis, Vice Chancellor Georgia University System Georgia Board of Regents (over all Universities and state colleges)

31 institutions--research universities to state colleges Advisory Council meets 3x a year, made up of faculty senate presidents with Georgia Board of Regents

Commonalities between TN and GA--

Fiscal conditions similar in both states. Not a lot of capital at the state level.

Georgia is in a little better shape. As early as 5 years ago GA was 70% from state. Now they are 50-50. Cannot "break" Ga Tech and UGA in Georgia.

A few institutions were on life support.

Georgia Tech is closest to entrepreneurial. If they can figure out a way to cover plant (about 17%) they could essentially operate without state dollars.

Board had started not wanting to approve any new programs. Presidents were saying they didn't have 2 nickels to rub together and new programs cost money.

Over 3,000 programs in the system. Low producing programs report led to some of the programs being phased out. Others may have had low number of graduates, but survived on service hours.

Moved some programs to interdisciplinary programs and combined departments.

Board of Regents making decision to close program with 3 faculty and average of 3 graduates per year, in support of department that has 2nd highest number of graduates in the system and 1 faculty member.

*Across the board cuts are equally as ineffective as across the board improvements
Even at UGA we can't be all things to all people.*

We embrace conversations about higher education and its importance to economic development.

There are ways to match CIP (?) codes to occupation codes. Identify high demand jobs and correlate them to majors. When those are tightly coupled we are looking at what Georgia needs? How can we support those programs and majors that will supply those needs? Focus on high demand programs and we won't have to be having conversations about our academic portfolio in total. If there is not a dollar attached, it is not a priority.

Discussion began in the afternoon.

Agreement from several institutions that there is a ballooning of mid-level management. Some are being added to new positions. Others are occupying faculty lines but not teaching.

Discussion of related issues followed, including the frequency and transparency of administrative evaluations, and the impact of administrative bloat on student tuition and fees.

Holly Stretz made a motion, seconded by Bill, recommending that each faculty senate put it on their agenda to review administrative positions (i.e. people above department chair on organizational chart) and associated costs.

Tom Schlacht suggested we talk to our legislators about modifying the funding formula and put a cap on the percentage that can go to administration.

Much discussion followed over Senate Bill No. 975.

This was new information to many. Tom Schlacht shared a copy of the law and his draft of a suit in response. Bill discussed this law with ACLU Executive Director, Hedy Weinburg who believes the ACLU is willing to take this on. She forwarded this to the law director's desk.

If they take it, we need to know if there are individuals from different campuses, in addition to the Faculty Senates who will be plaintiffs in the case.

If ACLU decides to take this on, each member senate could decide if they wanted to be a part of this suit. If all agree, then TUFSS could be the plaintiff.

Tom made a motion that if ACLU decides to take this on, TUFSS will be plaintiff if majority of senates support it. Seconded by Holly. (6 out of the 10 Faculty Senates constitutes the majority).

Randy asked TBR members to go back and ask faculty senates if they want TUAPA extended to TBR institutions. (only TBR faculty are excluded by statute. All other employees of the state have access to this and students have access to this process) Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. Make representatives to TBR subcouncils aware that Tom will be bringing this up.

TUFSS Structural issues...communication. Group agreed that email remains best way to communicate with Executive Committee meeting virtually as needed.

1. Post the TUFSS information above on your institution's website and keep it updated.
2. Have the TUFSS representative report to the Senate at least once a semester about:
 - a. TUFSS purpose, website, & current president
 - b. TUFSS representative's name/email
 - c. Recent resolutions, actions by or concerns of TUFSS
 - d. Solicitation of feedback/concerns
3. Seat your TUFSS representative on your Senate executive committee as voting/non-voting member.

4. Include your TUFSS representative in select ceremonial campus events where Senate leadership would normally participate.

5. Add a membership statement to your main Senate webpage.

6. Add a "did you know" section to webpage. Executive committee will take responsibility for this.

7. INTERNAL TO TUFSS-EC will create social media section to TUFSS website including a "did you know" section.

Tricia (MTSU) will serve as advisor to executive committee on use of social media.

--consider purpose, audience, etc.

--type of forum will be pondered

As individual institutions/campuses become aware of the issues use TUFSS network to let others know.

We have no formal relationship with AAUP, should we? Good idea to communicate to AAUP lobbyist that we would be very interested in notice about issues of concern to higher ed.

Constitution/By-Laws Review

The TUFSS Executive Committee and members shall review the TUFSS Constitution and By-Laws (on the TUFSS website) for any necessary revisions.

Discussion continued regarding training for chairs. The answers varied. UTHS trains "as needed." UT units do things their own way. ETSU has no training. Some department at MTSU do. UTC has minimal training. Some chairs at TTU receive training through professional organizations.

Tom moved to encourage system boards to adopt appropriate policies requiring institutional support for management and leadership development for administrator, chairs, deans, and vice-presidents/vice chancellors, analogous to that required for faculty development. Bill Canak seconded.

If 6 faculty senates support this, TUFSS will send a letter to Chancellor Morgan and to President of UT requesting the policy.

Austin Peay offered to host the spring meeting. Date to be determined.

Other possible meeting locations included Arnold Airforce Base, Wingo Inn and Lakeside Club

Election of officers

-Holly Stretz from Tennessee Tech was elected secretary for the next two years.

UT Caucus presented Shela Van Ness for nomination as president elect. She was elected by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned.