

Summer 2018 Virtual Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Dr. Bonnie Ownley (UTK) TUFSS President

Dr. Randy Byington (ETSU) TUFSS Past-President

Dr. Susan Epps (ETSU)

Dr. Misty Anderson (UTK)

Dr. Beauvais Lyons (UTK)

Dr. Steve Way (UTC)

Dr. Renee Lefleur (UTM)

Dr. Henry

Dr. Justin Gardner (MTSU)

Dr. Pippa Holloway (MTSU)

Guests

Carrie Whitworth (UT Advocacy and Government Relations)

July 3, 2018

Complete recording is available in the drive. The summary is as follows:

1. An intense election cycle is underway with the impending August 2, 2018 election day approaching.
2. The primary is expected to be historic with 40-50 possible turnovers and 28 guaranteed vacancies. This is specifically significant because of the number of key leadership positions that are up for grabs. Results will be significant change but no one knows what it will look like in the end.
3. The "Tuition Transparency Act" requires universities to place an estimate of costs into admission letters so families can make informed decisions comparing various offers. The Act only applies to 4-year institutions.
4. THEC sets the tuition increase range for all institutions on an annual basis. Universities will be forced to "estimate" to achieve transparency.
5. Textbooks continue to be on the radar.
6. The mandatory purchase of meal plans also significantly impacts costs for students and may also be looked at during the process.
7. The "Transparency in Higher Education Act" would have required that ALL course materials (not just syllabi) to be posted for potential scrutiny. This would not be feasible to keep current (updated) with adjustments in activities, and etc.

8. Information that is available to parents under FERPA is greater than you might think. All information can be released if parents claim students on their federal taxes.
9. A push to allow ASL to meet any foreign language requirement passed but only as an entrance requirement. Legislators should not be dictating curriculum.
10. The "Outsourcing Care Act" applies to contracts or services over \$2.5 million and result in a reduction of force (even one individual).
11. The "Teacher Warranty Bill" sought to warranty teacher education graduates who perform poorly in two areas to have access to free remediation. The costs could be too high. It was modified to only "reporting".
12. "Quality Assurance Funding" was originally proposed to be tied only to teacher preparation programs but ended up based on a list of metrics.
13. Expect Teacher preparation programs to be "on the radar".
14. Beauvais Lyons suggested that all teachers at the secondary level should have a degree in his/her content area.
15. "Complete to Compete" did not pass but wanted to require all Hope scholarship recipients to complete a minimum of 30 hours each year to keep from paying back part of the received monies. UTK and other schools fought hard for many exceptions and an appeals process. Some version is expected to come up again.
16. A bill limiting dual enrollment options to Community Colleges only would have essentially cut out all 4-year institutions from competing with Community Colleges for these students. Many 4-year institutions have used dual enrollment as a successful recruiting tool. Also, an underlying issue is that dual enrollment is part of the funding formula. Expect more on this...
17. In-state tuition for undocumented students stalled immediately after clearing subcommittees.
18. A number of bills related to general education requirements are being explored.
19. "Efficiency Audits" was explored but not passed. It applied to course offerings that are "unnecessary" or "of little benefit" to students or the public. Passed out of both committees but failed the vote 10 to 0.
20. No expansion of "Guns on Campus" occurred.
21. Nothing related to "Tenure" was on the agenda.
22. Dr. Ownley suggested meeting more often to discuss relevant happenings if necessary.
23. Still trying to clear all of the hurdles related to the web site. All officers should now have access...We should be "close".
24. Announced Dr. Misty Anderson as the new Faculty Council President at UTK.
25. An update on the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 was given.

Meeting adjourned.