UTC Faculty Senate Report for TUFS, Spring 2019

The UTC Faculty Senate continued to implement UT Board of Trustees directives regarding mid-tenure review policies and Early Tenure policies. The policies submitted by the Faculty Senate were adopted into the Faculty Handbook by the Board of Trustees. Our early tenure policy is as follows:

3.3.2. Applying for Early Tenure

A tenure-track faculty member may request an early consideration for tenure before the sixth year of his or her probationary period ("early tenure") subject to the following limitations:

- A faculty member may apply for early tenure during years 2, 3, and 4 of the probationary period; however, if tenure is not granted, the faculty member must wait for one complete annual tenure cycle before reapplying; and
- A faculty member may apply for early tenure in year 5 of the probationary period. If tenure is not granted, he or she may reapply in the final year of the probationary period.

A faculty member should seek early tenure only after consultation with his or her departmental RTP Committee, department head and/or dean, which should include a thorough conversation about the faculty member's record.

We are appreciative of our Chancellor and Interim Provost's support for this policy, which we feel will allow us to recruit highly qualified colleagues.

The new UT President Randy Boyd met with UTC Faculty Senate members. One of the strongest needs expressed by the senate members was the need to assist students, who are often first-generation, who are struggling financially.

Post Tenure Review (PTR/PPPR) (Post Tenure Review/Periodic Post-Tenure Performance Review) policies were also adopted after much discussion and solicitation of faculty feedback. Our Interim Provost is working with our Budget and Economic Status Committee to consider the possibility of providing some kind of recognition for faculty successfully completing the PTR process. This recognition could be a letter of recognition, a one-time bonus or, less-likely, a percentage pay raise.

UTC Faculty member, Gretchen Potts, has been appointed to the UTC Advisory Board for Board of Trustees Business

Our new faculty Ombudsperson Joanie Sompayrac has completed additional training and has begun connecting with faculty members.

COMMITTEES:

The Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Handbook Committee have been unusually busy. The Handbook Committee has continued to integrate Board of Trustees policies and improve our Faculty Senate Bylaws, including adding more specific language about electronic voting and the use of proxy votes.

CLE (Course Learning Evaluation) Committee approved the implementation of the new Course Learning Evaluation tool, beginning in fall of 2019.

NTT Committee (Stephanie Todd) created and began piloting a new Non-Tenure Track Annual Review (NTAR). Previously NTT lecturers were evaluated using the same document as tenured/tenure track faculty.

Our Interim Provost appointed faculty member Lauren Ingraham as our new Director of General Education. Dr. Ingraham has been collaborating closely with the Faculty Senate and our General Education Committee. The moratorium on recertification of General Education courses has recently been lifted. However, the moratorium on the creation of new General Education courses remains in effect.

The Faculty Senate funded the attendance of two faculty members from the Learning Environment Committee at the Next Generation Learning Spaces Conference.

Adjunct Faculty Senator Ronda Ford worked with the Faculty Senate and the UTC Administration to advocate for better parking policies for adjunct faculty members. Adjunct faculty members can now obtain their parking permits before students and their permit fees have been reduced from $226 to $86.

The Senate approved the Student Voter Engagement Resolution brought by faculty members Amanda Wintersieck and Shawn Trivette (to Senator Amanda Clark)

1. *The university administration should designate a specific person within an existing office or department to coordinate voter registration and turnout initiatives in each election year.*
2. *All university calendars (including the academic calendar) and announcement media should include key voting-related information. This would include such things as voter registration deadlines; links to register to vote; dates, times, and locations for early voting; and Election Day information (when it is, how to find one's polling location, etc.).*
3. *The university should establish a webpage that is updated by the above designated person where a nonpartisan voter plan and voter turnout data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) can be made available.*

On March 29, UTC Chancellor Steve Angle announced the appointment of Dr. Jerold "Jerry" Hale as the next Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, effective June 1, 2019.