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Faculty Senate, East Tennessee State University

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MINUTES—November 23, 2009

Faculty Senate—East Tennessee State University

UPCOMING MEETING:	FOLLOWING MEETING:
December 7, 2009 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center	February 1, 2010 2:45 pm Forum, Culp Center

Present: Alsop, Bartoszuk, Bates, Bitter, Brown, Buerkle, Burgess, Byington, Calhoun, Campbell, Champouillon, Crowe, Dorgan, Ecay, Emma, Glover, Grover, Hamdy, Harker, Hemphill, Horton, Kellogg, Kortum, Martin, Morgan, Mullersman, Mustain, Peiris, Price, Reed, Schacht, Scott, Shafer, Stuart, Trainor, Trogen, Zhu

Excused: Arnall, Creekmore, Fisher, Gerard, Granberry, Kaplan, Kelley, Loess, Odle, Roach, Shuttle, Smurzynski, Stone, Zou

Guests: ETSU President Paul E. Stanton, Jr.;
Vice President for Health Affairs and ETSU Chief Operating Officer Wilsie Bishop

CALL TO ORDER: President Champouillon called the meeting to order at 2:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the November 9, 2009, Faculty Senate meeting were approved with three corrections of typographical errors.

NEW BUSINESS: Champouillon introduced President Stanton, noting Stanton has been ETSU's eighth president for 13 years. He thanked Dr. Stanton for working closely and tirelessly with all ETSU constituents throughout his tenure.

Dr. Stanton first addressed ETSU's budget, which is now down about 25.3%, or \$15 million of the \$60 million budget before the Great Recession. Quillen is down about 12 to 12 ½%; Pharmacy is not down because it is self-supporting. We can observe through webcasts Tennessee's budget hearings; agendas are available at Tn.gov. He is not hearing anything good and anticipates another 9% in reductions. A disproportionate amount of higher-education allotments goes to community colleges, so our reduction may be higher. He has asked THEC to provide information about next year's budget in the spring instead of waiting until summer as usual to give us a head start in adjusting. He was on a panel on finance in West Virginia the previous week; other panelists from WV and Maryland said they are encountering similar difficulties with budgets.

About governance in higher education, Stanton said he does not anticipate changes in the structure in the next year, the last of Governor Bredesen's administration. Graduation rates at UT-K are about 60%, while ETSU's are around 40%. The discrepancy might lead the governor and legislators to support a transfer of funds from us to UT via an overhaul of the governance of higher

education, but restructuring may not take into account the different populations regional schools like ETSU serve in contrast to the population of UT.

If Tennessee were at the beginning of structuring higher education governance, a single system would be desirable. THEC was established in 1968 to balance appropriations between the UT and TBR systems and ensure fair treatment of schools within both because at the time, UT was being favored. THEC has not worked all that poorly. Now, if the two systems were to be converted into one, Stanton is afraid UT would be receive the bulk of funding to the detriment of TBR schools, and ETSU would lose its special strengths in the health sciences and other fields. Students in Upper East Tennessee would be harmed by the lack of graduate programs in the region. Stanton fears other highly successful programs at ETSU would also be cut because they might be seen as duplicating those at UT even though the programs at UT could not be expanded to admit all interested students. **Stanton still supports the THEC system.**

About the Ph.D. program in sports physiology, Stanton said it will enhance ETSU considerably as a one-of-a-kind program. It will draw upon and contribute to resources from other graduate studies and research. Wayne Basler has given \$100,000 toward start-up costs, and CCOE has matched it with \$100,000 in discretionary dollars.

Dr. Stanton said he is focused on remaining at ETSU through the 2011 centennial year. Anything beyond that remains to be seen.

Concerning how the Senate can help ETSU deal with the continuing budget crisis, Stanton said the combined efforts of administrators, faculty, and staff have brought us close to the mark of earlier reductions, but we are not ready for additional cuts of 9%. The Budget Reduction Task Force is tackling that problem. Other schools find our success hard to believe. When we come out of this crisis, we will be leaner but stronger. Thirty proposals were submitted for the Stimulus Buc\$ Challenge, and in the first week of December Marsh Grube will recommend the best to him.

Champouillon reported that UT representatives have gone to the governor to have six to eight capital projects approved instead of following THEC procedures. Stanton said he is concerned that UT's health sciences building in Memphis, which was neglected during the several recent changes in UT's administration, will be favored at the expense of other projects already on the capital improvements list. Since it could cost as much as \$300 million, it would displace numerous projects on other campuses, including ETSU's fine arts building. We must ask our legislators to help make sure our needs are met.

Champouillon asked if the ETSU Foundation could be tapped for funds to help faculty. Stanton replied that foundation dollars are earmarked.

Senator Bitter commented that we might be better off to raise standards and keep students as UT does. Stanton he would prefer to raise GPA standards. UT-K is different from regional schools in that it has 70% traditional students; we have 43% nontraditional students. We want to put in place an incentive plan to increase retention and graduation rates. He projects our maximum enrollment to be 15,000. If we freeze enrollment at that figure, what do we do when legislators demand access for constituents? THEC has been told to freeze programs, but political pressures have led legislators and the governor to approve three new Ph.D. programs even though positions may have to be cut to finance them.

Senator Kortum asked how ETSU's growth has affected the student-faculty ratio. Stanton said growth has affected the use of facilities; we lack several large lecture rooms that we need. Kortum said his concern is the quality of the educational experience. Stanton said we have room to increase a bit if we adjust scheduling. After 4 pm, we do a poor job of using classroom space. About the student-faculty ratio, Stanton said we have worked to maintain it at pre-recession levels, though current freezes could result in increased class sizes.

Senator Schacht asked about the possibility of adjusting performance funding. Has anyone actually figured the statistics of stratifying students? Stanton said according to TBR, ETSU is pretty much with its peers. Schacht asked, if we examine a sample of ETSU students comparable to those at UT, how do their graduation rates compare? Stanton said that within comparable populations, graduation rates are similar. Our larger numbers of commuting and non-traditional students do not graduate at the same rate within the same time frame as more traditional students at both institutions do.

Senator Burgess said that in comparison with California State schools, we do well. Stanton agreed, saying that referring students who need remedial and developmental classes to community colleges has made a huge difference.

Champouillon thanked Stanton and introduced Dr. Bishop. **Bishop reported on ETSU's increasing development of health sciences programs since then-ETSU President Ron Beller established the Division of Health Sciences in 1989. At the time, Dr. Stanton was Dean of the College of Medicine.** TBR recognizes ETSU's emphasis on health sciences in its mission statement.

ETSU has one of 104 recognized health centers in the US. It continues to have a rural, interdisciplinary focus. When it was formed, the Kellogg Foundation called for proposals for programs with a rural interdisciplinary focus, and ETSU became one of five to receive \$10 million under the strong leadership of Dr. Stanton. ETSU's health sciences division uses team teaching, and students go out into communities. Now we have Ph.D. programs in addition to the M.D. QCOM is in the top ten in rural medicine; it is in the top 25 in family medicine. ETSU's College of Nursing is in the top 40% and is the largest in Tennessee. ETSU's College of Clinical and Rehabilitative is new and unique to the region. A

long-term goal is to create a Ph.D. in rehabilitative sciences that will draw on the resources of all the colleges in the Division of Health Sciences.

The College of Pharmacy is accredited as of 2010. It is a research as well as teaching college. When ETSU started it, there was one other pharmacy school in Tennessee; now there are five, with a sixth slated to open in Knoxville to continue clinical training for students who begin the study of pharmacy at UT in Memphis.

ETSU's College of Public Health, accredited this year, is the only one in Central Appalachia. It has completed recruitment of administrators and faculty and is working to grow research funding.

Under the leadership of new Dean of Nursing Wendy Nehring, CON has developed and implemented a new administrative structure. It is now developing a DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) program. It is also implementing innovative approaches to addressing the nursing shortage. It has expanded the use of nursing clinics and simulation for education.

Schacht said he is aware of controversies at the national level about conflicts between nursing and medicine concerning areas of training. Bishop said ETSU is aware of possible conflicts and tries to avoid them. For example, we do not train nurse anesthesiologists to compete with physicians who specialize in the field.

Bishop said a major project in QCOM is the completion of the student center auditorium for Stanton-Gerber Hall. Students are paying for it themselves. QCOM is expanding its program in Sevierville and strengthening clinical faculty relationships with clinical partners. In addition, it is developing clinical research programs and supporting basic research and education with its programs.

The goals of Health Affairs include increasing research productivity, setting and achieving benchmarks against peers, and identifying and increasing alternate sources of funding. Bishop is working to develop a method of tuition exchange between Pharmacy and other ETSU colleges. Health Affairs is continuing to enhance its rural and interdisciplinary focus, as well as to increase collaboration among its own colleges and with other colleges at ETSU. Plans include addressing the need for electronic medical records in all clinical programs, increasing racial and ethnic diversity in admissions, and reviewing course offerings to consolidate and reduce redundancy.

Champouillon thanked Bishop. **He announced that several months ago, an International Advisory Council was approved. He said he believes a member of the Senate's Academic Matters Committee on the Council should represent the Senate on the Council.** Senator Campbell asked if someone has already been selected. Champouillon said no.

Kortum, who served on an ad hoc International Advisory Council, said that members need internet experience. Schacht moved that the Faculty Senate representative to the council may be elected from the Senate as a whole but becomes a member of the Academic Matters Committee. The motion was seconded and passed with no opposition.

Senator Alsop explained that the Faculty Affairs Committee is presenting for Senate approval revision of Section 3.8 of the Faculty Handbook concerning awards. Members streamlined the passage and propose one major change in the award previously called the Research Award: It will become the Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity Award. All awards must be given for accomplishments achieved by full-time employees of ETSU during their time of employment here (though someone with emeritus status may receive the award within one year after retirement). Other changes involve procedures and the calendar.

Kortum questioned fairness: those with huge teaching loads do not have opportunity for research. Alsop said those persons might be candidates for a teaching award. Bitter asked that the matter be tabled for future lengthy discussion, and Schacht agreed. Alsop said the administration has asked that the Senate act quickly on the changes so they can be implemented with the next round of awards. He pointed out that the policy can be changed again if needed.

Senator Brown moved that the policy be accepted as written. Her motion was seconded and passed on a show of hands.

Champouillon asked Senator Trogen if he has received responses from legislators to the invitation to attend the December 7th Senate meeting. Trogen said he has received about four affirmative responses to the invitation. Several senators agreed that meeting with legislators merits our full attention.

Champouillon asked if anyone thinks the issue of writing intensives merits further attention and discussion. Burgess and Campbell asked discussion toward what end. Champouillon said that was his question. Senator Grover moved that Bill Kirkwood be asked to visit the Senate to discuss intensives and bring with him the persons responsible for approving courses for each one. Campbell seconded. The motion passed on voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Champouillon adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Please notify Kathleen Grover (grover@etsu.edu or x96672), Faculty Senate Secretary, 2009-2010, of any changes or corrections to the minutes. Web Page is maintained by Senator Doug Burgess (burgess@etsu.edu or x96691).