

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

Zoom Monthly Meeting
April 9, 2024

Attendance: (senators, administrators, and faculty)

Attending: PJ Koltnow, Jillian McCarthy, Karen Derefinko, Tracy McClinton, Alina Cernasev, Jayc Sedlmayr, Imran Quraishi, Kristen Bettin, Paul C Gahn, Ron Espinal, Chris Wood, Jeffry Bieber, Ava Saidian, Twisha Oza, Blake Moore, Terrance Cooper, April Hilsdon, Helmut O Steinberg, Yanhui Zhang, Ted Cory, David Hamilton, Laura Enomoto, Ranjit Philip, Kim Kelly, Rose Fu, Tyler Melton, Laura Reed, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Laxmichaya Sawant, Myra M Meekins, Ashton Brooks, Jill M. Maples, Stephen Pishko, Steven M Doettl, Donna Lynch-Smith, Kim Carter, Heather Moss, Mary Erickson, Nina K Sublette, Phyllis Richey, Tauheed Ishrat, Jill Tichy, Hassan Almoazen, Jaqueline D Venturin, Yi Lu, Richard Smith, Ramesh Krishnan, Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Vickie Baselski, Brett Wilson, David W Petersen, Emma Murray, Vrushali Abhyankar, Ayman Aldayeh, Scott Hollis, Fuming Zhou, Ioannis Dragatsis, Shelley White-Means, Ben Maddox, Elisha McCoy, Cheran Elangovan, Jess Newman McDonald, Sarah Newell, Ji Min Yochim, Laurentia Nodit, Rachel Barenie, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Michael Winstead, Sharon Little, Cynthia Russell, Stephanie Cage, Peter Buckley, Dan Young, Ammar L. Ammar, Vikki Massey.

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm CST/5:05 pm EST

Faculty Senate Meeting

Presiding: Mr. Paul J. Koltnow, President

Presentation by Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer Vikki Massey and Ammar L. Ammar

- Ammar L. Ammar is the Chief Information Officer and Chief Security Officer
- Teams work to relay information
 - Service desk to computer labs
 - Projects
- Traditional methods still exist (service desk can help you via TechConnect) via email, call, in person 8AM-5PM
 - Project request form
- Hardware Refresh Standard presented
 - Advantages of regular hardware refresh:
 - Increased productivity
 - Enhanced security
 - Cost optimization
 - Streamlines support
 - Flexibility
 - Less administrative overhead
 - ITS is preparing next steps following a supportive vote in the senate:
 - What hardware
 - What type of model (lease computers, buy computers, models)
 - What offerings will we have
 - What are exceptions and flex policies
 - What will cost be
 - How will this be funded
 - This is an institutional decision
- Questions
 - Would both PC and Apple products be offered?
 - Yes, standard is based upon need
 - AI is dominating fields. Will we have resources to help faculty, students, and staff?
 - Yes, we are preparing for this. We have steps already taking place and steps we will be taking to

manage issues and make good use of this technology.

- Email that Tom Laughner sent about UT System sponsored AI
 - “UT verse” was first foray into getting tools out to university
 - <https://utverse.tennessee.edu/>
 - Co-pilot
 - <https://copilot.microsoft.com/>
 - Make sure to sign in with your UTHSC NetID and password so you are in the University of Tennessee versions
 - For both, a protected, closed version of ChatGPT 4.0
 - Will allow you to ask questions, get images, writing
 - This is through Microsoft licensing
- Takes more than 21 days to get a replacement computer through the HUB – this is too long. Can anything be done?
 - Vice Chancellor Massey will look into this
- Teaching in GEB: Computers experience regular issues after upgrades, very disruptive to teaching and to the class
 - Vice Chancellor Massey will look into this
- Telephone/Ring Central
 - Why do some numbers work, but others don't?
 - Upgrades are still being made
- Emergency calls
 - There should be strategy in place to access phone immediately
 - There are phones in place, but more can be installed – need to contact Chief Barryhill
- Security updates
 - More phishing emails than usual – please send to abuse.uthsc.edu to report

- Firewall is frequently “patched” to ensure threats are blocked
- University gets over 1 million “attacks” or “spam” a day
 - For every one you receive, about 10,000 are blocked
- Comments
 - You can still get a hard land line
 - Device connects to computer, but can be separate (can be on phone and computer at same time)

News and Updates

- Faculty Senate Committee Updates
 - Computing, Technology and Communications: Hardware Refresh Standard (Appendix A)
 - Motion to approve: Dr. Richard Smith. Seconded by Dr. Rajashekhar Gangaraju.
 - Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 98% (57/58)
 - Do not approve: 0% (0/58)
 - Abstain: 2% (1/58)
 - Handbook Committee: Distinguished Professor and Professor Emeritus
 - Soon there will be a new copy of the handbook
 - It has not been renewed since 2018
 - VC Russell and SVC Fleming have worked hard on this
 - The two documents: (Appendix B)
 - Distinguished Professor policy started in 2017, in 2023 was picked back up again
 - Need input from senate before this is sent to FAWG
 - Discussion opened

- Concerns over rank requirements
- This is at the discretion of the Dean and Chancellor
- There is no prohibition for tenure vs. non tenured
 - Please send concerns to Dr. Terrance Cooper or Faculty President PJ Koltnow
- Professor Emeritus
 - Can faculty of a lower rank be awarded Emeritus was addressed
 - This is at the discretion of the Dean and Chancellor as well
 - Need input from senate before this is sent to FAWG
 - Discussion opened
- No strong exception to these policies and will move to FAWG

Approval of the March 12, 2024, minutes.

- The floor was opened for discussion of the March 12th, 2024 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Dr. Terrance Cooper motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Rajashekhar Gangaraju.
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 100% (54/54)
 - Do not approve: 0% (0/54)
 - Abstain: 0% (0/54)

Faculty Senate President PJ Koltnow

- Faculty Senate Elections are coming up

New Business

- Announcements

Announcements

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm CST/6:02 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Karen Derefinko
Faculty Senate Secretary

Appendix A. Hardware Refresh Standard.

Draft

Computer Hardware Refresh Standard

Whereas, UT Health Science Center strives to facilitate a secure, productive computing environment, with parity for all users and which optimizes costs and allows for flexibility for users,

Whereas, UT Health Science Center needs to develop a sustainable funding model for computer hardware,

Whereas, lack of consistency in timing of computer hardware purchases does not support efficiency, security and parity of resources,

Whereas, UT Health Science Center Information Technology Services has proposed a program to facilitate fair, cost-effective, and equitable access to computing hardware,

Whereas, the UT Health Science Center Faculty Senate is sensitive to the significant size of this expenditure for the campus,

Whereas, savings can be gained by economies of scale for the purchases,

Whereas, excellence in educational, research, and clinical missions for faculty requires up to date, and secure hardware,

Be it resolved, that the UT Health Science Center Faculty Senate endorses a UT Health Science Center -wide computer hardware refresh program comprising a refresh standard that defines, at the very least, a refresh cycle, standardized computing options and configurations, a flexible exceptions policy, sustainable annual funding, and a governance model.

Appendix B. Distinguished Professor and Professor Emeritus Handbook Language.

Approval History

- 1-17-23 Distributed to Handbook Committee
- 1-20-23 Text discussed at Handbook Committee meeting
- 1-25-23 Informed Kristi of HB Com. Dissatisfaction with text and request for more detailed process
- 1-28-23 Distributed to Handbook Committee for further discussion
- 2-3-23 Discussed by Handbook Committee and with Kristi Forman
- 2-2-23 Approved by FAWG
- 2-9-23 Distributed to Handbook Committee in preparation for distribution to FSEC members
- 2-10-20 HBC revisions
- 2-21-23 FSEC approved for negotiation with Kristi Forman subject to duration question
- 2-24-23 Received from CAO Office & distributed to Handbook Committee
- 3-13-24 Suggested revision (highlighted in yellow) for today's discussion with Dr. Fleming
- 3-13-24 Outcome of meeting with Valarie Fleming
- 3-25-24 Handbook Committee revisions forwarded to Valarie Fleming for discussion
- 3-27-24 Outcome of Mtg with Valarie Fleming
- 4-3-24 Forwarded to FSEC & Dr. Fleming with Handbook Committee approval

FA 100 Distinguished Professors

POLICY

In order to recognize faculty who have provided outstanding service to the campus for a prolonged period, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center has created the title of UTHSC Distinguished Professor.

PROCEDURE

The title of UTHSC Distinguished Professor may be awarded to a full-time UTHSC faculty member who has typically served with excellence for 10 or more years and who plans to continue in service to the university. The specific criteria for these appointments may vary by college; however, such appointments are initiated by the dean. Annually, each dean, receiving requests from department/unit leaders following their consultation with the department's/unit's faculty, can nominate one or more faculty from his/her college to be considered for this honorific title. The dean's recommendation and supporting materials will be considered by the Chancellor; and, if approved by the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Chief Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs Officer will be notified for endorsement and enactment of the appointment.

Normally, UTHSC Distinguished Professors are appointed for three years. The appointment of a UTHSC Distinguished Professor may only be made if the college's/unit's approved bylaws contain a description of the criteria and process by which an appointment is to be made.

Faculty members who receive this honorific title are subject to annual performance reviews in the same manner as other faculty. However, every third year following the initial appointment When deemed necessary by the chair or the dean, the annual review will also include an additional discussion with the dean regarding continuation of this title. The use

Use of the title may be discontinued by the dean Chancellor if the faculty member demonstrably ceases to perform in an exemplary manner (as evidenced by an evaluation of 'needs improvement' or 'unsatisfactory') or is no longer performing at the level expected of an individual holding this title or for other adequate cause. Typically, removal of the title is initiated by the dean, following consultation with the department/unit chair and faculty, who will forward a recommendation to the Chancellor along with his/her reasoning for the recommendation. The faculty member will also be given an opportunity to respond to the dean's recommendation. Following consideration of these documents and any other information the Chancellor deems necessary, he/she will decide whether or not to remove the title. That decision and reasoning upon which it is being made will be forwarded to the CAO, dean, faculty and his/her unit leader. The Chancellor's decision is final.

- 1-24-24 Distributed to Handbook Committee
- 2-6-24 Handbook Committee Revisions
- 2-28-24 Text agreed upon by Handbook Committee and Dr Fleming
- 2-29-24 forwarded to the CAO's Office
- 3-1-24 Additional revisions from CAO's Office and Handbook Committee
- 3-2 to 3-12-24 Additional revisions from Handbook Committee
- 3-27-24 Outcome of meeting with Valarie Fleming
- 4-3-24 Forwarded to FSEC & Dr. Fleming with Handbook Committee approval

6.2.7 Emeritus Appointments

UTHSC may award emeritus status to faculty members at or after the time of their retirement. A faculty member with emeritus status will hold an honorary faculty appointment at a specified rank/title. Emeritus status is granted to those individuals/faculty members who have distinguished themselves in service to UTHSC/the university and who have received recognition for their academic or other contributions. The status is not granted automatically upon retirement of a faculty member but rather upon based upon (a) the length and quality of service to the university, (b) the recommendation of the faculty member's Chair, (c) with the endorsement of the Dean, and (d) subsequent approval of the Chancellor. The

Emeritus status is usually reserved for individuals/faculty members retiring at the rank of full professor and such individuals are designated as Emeritus Professor. Emeritus. Faculty of a lower rank are not excluded from the award of emeritus status when justified. An administrator holding a faculty position retiring with the rank of dean or above usually is designated Dean Emeritus, etc. An individual retiring at a lower rank may be granted and holding the status/title of Chair, Distinguished or Endowed Chair Professor, etc. is designated as emeritus at that rank, this award being based on the length and quality of service to UTHSC/title.

Subject to use of "university" or "UTHSC" consistent with its use elsewhere in the Faculty Handbook.

This may be an issue to administratively revise throughout the Handbook when distinguishing UTHC from the UT system.