

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

Zoom Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2024

Attendance: (senators, administrators, and faculty)

Attending: PJ Koltnow, Jillian McCarthy, Karen Derefinko, Tracy McClinton, Alina Cernasev, Keith May, Jayc Sedlmayr, P. Roger DeVersa, Imran Quraishi, Terrance Cooper, Alicia Barnes, April Hilsdon, Helmut O Steinberg, David Hamilton, Laura Reed, Kimberly Morris, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Laxmichaya Sawant, Leo Lamsen, Myra M Meekins, Ashton Brooks, Steven M Doettl, Donna Lynch-Smith, Kim Carter, Heather Moss, Nina K Sublette, Phyllis Richey, Fatima Ahmed, Tauheed Ishrat, Jill Tichy, Hassan Almoazen, Jaqueline D Venturin, Wen Lin Sun, Chalet Tan, Yi Lu, Richard Smith, Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Karine Guerrier, Vickie Baselski, Hilary Jasmin, David W Petersen, Annabelle Holt, Christopher Brett, Marquita Nelson, Emma Murray, Kevin Freeman, Vrushali Abhyankar Elizabeth A Fitzpatrick, Ayman Aldayeh, Rebecca Reynolds, Scott Hollis, Fuming Zhou, Shelley White-Means, Thaddeus A Wilson, Ben Maddox, Elisha McCoy, Ramesh Narayanan, Cheran Elangovan, Carrie Harvey, Jess Newman McDonald, Krishnan, Lisa Beasley, Sarah Newell, Ji Min Yochim, Kimberly Kelly, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Sharon Little, Valarie Fleming, Cynthia Russell, Stephanie Cage, Raajkumar Kurapati, Peter Buckley, Laurentia Nodit, Dan Young.

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm CST/5:04 pm EST

Faculty Senate Meeting

Presiding: Mr. Paul J. Koltnow, President

Approval of the February 13, 2024 minutes.

- The floor was opened for discussion of the February 13th, 2024 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Dr. Rajashekhar Gangaraju motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Rebecca Reynolds.
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 100% (37/37)
 - Do not approve: 0% (0/37)
 - Abstain: 0% (0/37)

Presentation by Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Raaj Kurapati

- Budget cut due to \$55 million deficit
 - \$15.5 is the budget gap
 - To “stop the bleeding” this \$15.5 million must be addressed immediately
 - “Chip away” at this balance by enacting the following
 - A reduction in 60 personnel was necessary to balance budget. This was the first step.
 - Tuition increase of 2.9%.
 - Next budget will have compensation increase (3%)
 - \$800,000 in recurring money from Governor
 - No plans to impact faculty
 - Will allow Deans to make decisions about how they want to save money
 - Will budget cuts impact safety?
 - No plans to cut security services, but will be more strategic about the resources we use
- Enterprise Risk Assessment
 - Named a number of events faced with in the past year
 - Auto thefts have increased on campus
 - But no other crime categories

- This is despite increases across all crime categories in Shelby County
- Existing and new resources
 - Security staff are 24/7, 3 shifts
 - Lighting is critical
 - Parking lots will be fenced to restrict access
 - Use cameras that exist – currently cameras across campus are not being employed
- Safety message and video will be released this week
- Weather event
 - Need a process that defines what communications go out
 - Last response was confusing and lacked clarity

Faculty Senate Elections

- Agreement to buy out time for President and Secretary
 - Chancellor Buckley has been waiting to see what college the new officers will be from
 - Have the commitment of the Deans to cover this effort (what does 15% look like)
 - This may look different by college, by department
- May: Elections for Faculty Senators will occur in May
- June: If you want to run for an office, you must submit your name to Faculty President PJ Koltnow or Secretary Karen Derefinko and add your bio before June meeting

Faculty Feedback Action (FFA) Survey

- Please complete your surveys
- Survey is anonymous
- Chancellor cannot make changes if there is no feedback
- Please email Dr. Shelley White Means if you have questions:
swhiteme@uthsc.edu

Computing, Technology, and Communications Committee

- Advocating with ITS to create hardware refresh policy

- Standard will be distributed prior to the April meeting

Announcements

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm CST/6:08 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Karen Derefinko
Faculty Senate Secretary