

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

Zoom Monthly Meeting
February 11, 2025

Attendance: (senators, administrators, and faculty)

Attending: Anna Bukiya, Anthony Berryhill, April Hilsdon, Ashton Brooks, Ava Saidian, Ayman Abdul H Aldayeh, Ben Maddox, Brett Wilson, Carrie Harvey, Chalet Tan, Cheran Elangovan, Cheran Elangovan, Chris Wood, Christopher Brett, Cindy Russell, Dan Young, David Hamilton, David W Petersen, Dina Filiberto, Donna Lynch-Smith, Fatima Ahmed, Fuming Zhou, Hassan Almoazen, Helmut O Steinberg, Hitesh S Sandhu, Imran Quraishi, Ioannis Dragatsis, James M. Lewis, Jaqueline D Venturin, Jayc Sedlmayr, Jess Wesberry, Jill M. Maples, Jillian McCarthy, John Gleysteen, Karen J Derefinko, Karine Guerrier, Katherine L March, Keith May, Kevin William Freeman, Kim Carter, Kimberly Morris, Kristen Bettin, Laura T Reed, Laxmichaya Sawant, Mahmoud Hassouba, Maria Carrillo, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Mike McDonald, Molly Ericison, Nabajit Choudhury, Nikhil Gopal, Nina K Sublette, Paul C Gahn, Paul J Koltnow, Phyllis Richey, Raajkumar Kurapati, Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Ramesh Krishnan, Rebecca Reynolds, Richard John Kasser, Rima Zahr, Ron Espinal, Sandeep Chilakala, Sharon Little, Shelley White-Means, Stephen Pishko, Stephen Rauls, Steven M Doettl, Sunbal Ashraf, Tauheed Ishrat, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Ted Cory, Terrance G Cooper, Tracy McClinton, Valarie Fleming, Vickie Baselski, Vonzella Bryant, Vrushali Abhyankar, Yanhui Zhang, Yi Lu

Faculty Senate Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm CST/5:00 pm EST

Presiding: Dr. Tracy McClinton, President

**Business Discussion with Dr. Tracy McClinton
Discussion on Campus security with Chief Berryhill and
Executive Vice Chancellor Raaj Kurapati**

- Discussion on campus and city security
- Significant Crime down significantly across the city of Memphis in 2024
 - Crime down 8.4% year to date
- Still is a perception of safety in the city
- Decline in auto thefts across the city
- Homicide down, but still higher than it should be
- Motor vehicle thefts down, but still occurring on campus
- Drivers for crime in the city include theft from motor vehicles and auto theft, but have decrease year and month to date
- More than 3000 individuals in the city arrested more than once, 22 people arrested 10+ times over the course of the year. Progress has been made but still a lot to do
- For Health Science Center
 - Relatively few crimes overall, mainly motor vehicle theft, other theft, simple assault, vandalism. Cases are down overall from 2023-2024
- Questions
 - Where are motor vehicle thefts and other crimes occurring, and what can we do to address the issue?
 - Security to send emails on “stow it don’t show it”. Make sure items are not visible to draw attention
 - Put things in your trunk before you reach campus, rather than putting it in your trunk on campus

- Weapons left in vehicles makes the vehicle an attractive target, especially if not protected (in a lockbox secured to the vehicle)
- Investments in technology for campus
 - 3800 cameras on campus
 - Will be making more investments in technology in the future
 - License plate readers
 - Overall look at cameras and access controls to occur, updating older technology
- Recent approval on \$2,000,000 investments for parking lot security, including lighting, cameras, and fencing. As well as delineating campus from non-campus areas
- Fencing on Holiday Inn building, and destruction will be occurring over the next year
- What is the current status of the Health Science Center Park
 - HSC park recently acquired for the Memphis Medical District Collaboration
 - Will be dealing with people in the park
 - Park is monitored by Campus security, but it is not Health Science Center property
- Is it possible to monitor/report crimes that occur off campus to faculty/students?
 - Can inform campus police if something occurs so campus security can have documentation
- Health Science Center park policing. Is there a community policing plan in place for the Health Science Center park?
 - Community policing agreement is still in place, but we cannot tell people to leave the health science center park

- Campus security has a relationship with most of the homeless people around campus
- Most people have moved away from campus area
- Other issues
 - Regional One new hospital site
 - Molecular Sciences Building will remain with campus, and not be sold to Regional One
 - No additional detail on expansion of ROH

Discussion and Approval of the January 14, 2025 minutes

- The floor was opened for discussion of the January 14, 2025 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Dr. Terry Cooper motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Rebecca Reynolds
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 51
 - Do not approve: 0
 - Abstain: 1

Discussion and vote on bylaw change on business days (appendix A)

- Handbook refers to days, and proposal is to change days to business days if the time period is less than two weeks. If it is greater it would remain as days. This would not be the case if policy is required to use days
- The floor was opened for discussion of the Change in bylaws on business days. No edits were recommended. Dr. Donna Lynch Smith motioned to accept the drafts as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Nina Sublette
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 47
 - Do not approve: 0
 - Abstain: 2

Discussion and vote on Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement Award (appendix B)

- This would formalize an award for the faculty senate to award as needed for someone showing outstanding leadership and meritorious commitment. Could be someone who is retired, or will be retiring soon
- Have done something similar on an ad hoc basis
- Award would not need to be given out every year
- The floor was opened for discussion of the Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement Award. No edits were recommended. Dr. Shekhar Gangaraju motioned to accept the drafts as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Shelley White Means
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
 - Approve: 43
 - Do not approve: 0
 - Abstain: 2

New Business

- COM dean search is ongoing
- DASH issues and research/hiring has been communicated with campus administration
- Board of trustees meeting to February 27/28.
- Wellness taskforce ongoing, will be getting faculty feedback. Can reach out to Tracy McClinton or Ted Cory for focus groups
- Honor code revisions in process, will have faculty involvement in the new honor council
- Multi year appointments
 - COM has policy in place, please enquire about multi year appointments during APPR

Announcements

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm CST/6:01 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Ted Cory
Faculty Senate Secretary

Appendix A: Bylaw change on business days

The motion to be placed before the Senate:

Unless required otherwise by Board of Trustees policy, I move that “days” throughout the Faculty Handbook be revised to “business days” for periods of time less than two weeks.

Appendix B: Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement award

Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement Award

The awardee is selected by a majority vote of the FSEC and the full Faculty Senate. Nominations should be submitted to the FSEC by an active or retired faculty member. Nominees must have: (a) served as a prior or active Faculty Senator; (b) demonstrated a history of outstanding leadership and/or meritorious commitment and service to the Faculty Senate over a number of years and/or senate terms; and (c) contributed in a meaningful way to the accomplishment of the mission and goals of the UT Health Science Center Faculty Senate during their faculty tenure. Nominees must be retired or have announced their intent to retire from UT Health Science Center. This award can be given posthumously. This award is only given when justified. When awarded, a plaque is presented at the annual business meeting.