

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

University Planning and Resources Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, February 13, 2015 – 1:30pm  
UC Foundation Room, University Center

## MEETING NOTES

Dr. Richard Brown welcomed the group and asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 6, 2015. The minutes were approved unanimously.

There was a brief overview of Governor Haslam's proposed budget as it relates to UTC.

Dr. Brian O'Leary voiced a concern about the way UPRAC communicates information to individuals outside of the group. There was a brief discussion about how UTC should communicate the plan to the department heads to calm angst before the future Budget Town Hall meeting.

### 1. Academic Affairs

Dr. Jerald Ainsworth began a discussion of the Academic Affairs Budget Reallocation proposal. He noted that there are no currently-filled positions eliminated in the plan and that much of the Academic Affairs' reallocation plan stems from conversation with the individual departments. Dr. Ainsworth then called for questions which are detailed below:

- a. Dr. Bryan Samuel noted that a few of the proposed combined departments have had serious issues in the past and asked if there had been discussions regarding the departments' readiness to merge. Dr. Ainsworth responded that the affected departments have been discussing the merger for approximately six months. Dr. Jeff Elwell also noted that the departments have already agreed on a department head and that he felt that having more people at the table would help the reformulated department's decision making in the future.
- b. Dr. Richard Brown about the \$125,000 in STEM savings. Dr. Valerie Rutledge explained that students would be served by the department that recommends their licensure in the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies. This would eliminate the need for separate faculty and/or offices in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Jeff Elwell further clarified that the savings came from a vacant position and money spent for mentor teachers.
- c. Mr. Tyler Forrest asked a question regarding the cap in summer school pay. Dr. Jeff Elwell responded that the department heads brought up capping summer school pay rather than reallocating funds from another area and that faculty pay would be based on class size. Dr. Brian O'Leary commented that the proposed pay cap would not be compliant with Faculty Handbook rules and that there is no incentive to increase summer school because each individual college is only

allowed to spend a certain budgeted amount. Dr. Jerald Ainsworth stated that the budget does not equal a cap in spending, but that programs must be self-sustaining over that amount. He further stated that the Faculty Handbook allows for negotiation. Dr. Robert Dooley added that this system will give an incentive to increase class size. Dr. Richard Brown noted that summer school was \$700,000 over budget last year because overhead costs of \$3.6M were not met. There was then a brief discussion about summer school classes being taught by adjuncts.

- d. Mr. Tyler Forrest asked if regular faculty would cover the classes of the adjuncts that are being reduced in the reallocation proposal. Dr. Jeff Elwell answered that only one course in one department would not be covered. Mr. Yancy Freeman noted that some students left orientation this past summer without any courses on their schedules and that we need to be careful to not reduce students' choices. There was a conversation about what effect, if any, this reduction would have on revenue and on student access. Ms. Laura Duncan, Graduate Student President, added that she hoped that this reduction in adjuncts would not result in increased and overwhelming work for Graduate Assistants. The discussion ended with Dr. Jerald Ainsworth stating that the reduction in the number of adjuncts was not a hard reduction and, as such, the money saved should be removed from the reduction numbers.
- e. Mr. Tyler Forrest asked about the \$364,000 proposed reduction from WUTC. Mr. Chuck Cantrell stated that we are incorporating more students into the radio station and that it should exist as more of a learning lab in the future. WUTC is not under Academic Affairs however it was included simply to highlight the learning lab opportunities. WUTC will be removed from the AA recommendations.
- f. Mr. Robert Fisher, Student Government Association President, asked (through Ms. Laura Duncan) to what extent students will be asked about the consolidation proposed for some departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Jerald Ainsworth responded that no majors have been eliminated and that it does not change any programs currently offered. The reorganization is done to strengthen and protect the departments.
- g. Mr. Robert Fisher, Student Government Association President, asked (through Ms. Laura Duncan) if there would be an increased cost for students taking Economics due to the reorganization of departments. The consensus from the group is that it would cost students more because of differential tuition.
- h. Dr. John Delaney broached the topic of the B.I.S. and that UTC needs to have a broader conversation about it and ensure the program is connected/supported.
- i. Dr. Brian O'Leary commented that as an engaged, metropolitan university we should recognize the value of art, music and theater. Dr. Jeff Elwell commented that the Department of Music itself recommended the dissolution of the orchestra.

There was then a brief discussion of the fine arts in general and if UTC is trying to do too much in that area.

- j. There was a brief discussion about who should pay for the pep band and the cheerleaders. Dr. Richard Brown noted that for the last four years this cost has been covered by institutional funds.
  - k. There was a discussion about requiring all undergraduate to take and pay for 15 hours in the future. Mr. Yancy Freeman cautioned that requiring all undergraduates to pay for 15 hours, if implemented, will impact middle income families the most.
  - l. Dr. Bryan Samuel asked if current/future trends in education have been analyzed to help us determine where the budget should be reallocated.
  - m. There was a discussion about the Cadek Conservatory and its dramatic decrease in enrollment.
2. Dr. Brown then asked if the group was comfortable with voting on the Academic Affairs reallocation proposal and moving it forward. Dr. Brian O'Leary noted that he would like department heads to have more input. Dr. Jerald Ainsworth indicated a revised Academic Affairs version recommendations based on discussion in the meeting would be sent to Dr. Jeff Elwell, so he and Dr. O'Leary can meet with Arts and Sciences departments heads on February 18<sup>th</sup> to get input. Dr. Brian O'Leary then seconded the motion to vote and the proposal was passed unanimously.
  3. The next meeting will be February 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussion on Academic Affairs will be completed and UPRAC will then consider Student Development.