

**UPRAC  
Minutes  
February 28, 2022**

**Attended:** Steve Angle, Tyler Forrest, Jerold Hale, Kim White, Yancy Freeman, Gina Stafford, Theresa Liedtka, Michael Jones, Vanasia Parks, Chris Sherbesman, Allison Evans, Mark Wharton, Valerie Rutledge, Andrew McCarthy, Laura Perryman, Tammy Garland, Melita Rector, Zachary Ridder, Stacy Lightfoot, Joanne Romagni, Pamela Riggs-Gelasco, Linda Frost, Taylor Bradshaw, Abeer Mustafa, Daniel Pack

**Absent:** Laure Pou, David Steele, Robert Dooley, Rik Hunter, Vicki Farnsworth

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Dr. Tyler Forrest, Vice Chancellor, and Provost Jerold Hale, UPRAC Co-Chairs, welcomed everyone to our Spring meeting of the University Planning and Resources Allocations Committee (UPRAC) financial report meeting. Dr. Forrest shared a little bit of history on UPRAC that this process and committee was born out of a SACSCOC Reaffirmation a little over 10 years ago. Dr. Forrest stated the committee has been functioning ever since then to give the Chancellor, Leadership Team and others guidance on the budget financial planning process and it has worked quite well throughout these years.

Dr. Forrest thanked Mr. Chris Sherbesman and Ms. Allison Evans and their team for the exceptional work they do behind the scenes and working with each committee member to keep our budget balanced. Dr. Forrest recognized the Chancellor and asked him to please start the meeting with a welcome and opening remarks.

Chancellor Angle thanked everyone for attending this afternoon. Chancellor Angle stated that this year will be much easier even with the unknowns and challenges that may occur. Chancellor Angle said that the state budget and the capital side treated us very well, the formulas will be funded, and our tuition will be at zero which includes the fees. Chancellor Angle mentioned we will have to face inflation which is driving the costs up. Chancellor Angle said that the 4% salary pool is very much appreciated, but we fund a portion of that, and this is usually expected to come out of tuition increases. Chancellor Angle said that UTC offers a great deal to students compared to other universities regarding our tuition just being a little over \$10K and with our hard work, it will offer access to the degree programs. Chancellor Angle stated that with our financial aid, UTC can offer a great education at a reasonable price, as this makes it easier for young students to get a college education. Chancellor Angle mentioned that enrollment is an unknown for this coming year as fewer high school graduates are going to college. Chancellor Angle mentioned that these demographic shifts are making it challenging with the budget, which is based on tuition, and that we need to pay close attention so we can make good commitments. Chancellor Angle said that everyone will get a good overview of where the budget is and will look at priorities as we can still make investments with our funds. Chancellor Angle stated we are constantly challenged by our elected officials and board of trustees to ensure that we still have the impact that we want with our programs. This is a great opportunity for all of us to look at. Chancellor Angle turned to Provost Hale to comment on Academic Issues and Priorities.

Provost Hale mentioned that Dr. Lauren Ingraham is leading the General Education Reimagining Committee and the committee has been hard at work for the past 2 years discussing general education reimagining. The committee is close to presenting different models for the University to consider as an alternative to the current general education curriculum that we have. There will be some budgetary implications that will go along with it. Provost Hale stated that they are hoping some of the implications will support the students positively and others will require some resources from the University. Provost Hale said that students have been challenged for over a period of several years with financial aid. The idea is that if a particular class is not included in a student's degree requirements, then the federal financial aid will not pay for the class, and this has affected the students' abilities to explore and consider different kinds of electives. Provost Hale said that the committee is also considering a general education elective category that will give students the opportunity to explore things that they have not been able to consider, and the students will not have to worry about the financial burden that goes along with that. The committee has also been working at coming up with a more measurable and concise set of student learning outcomes for the various general categories. Provost Hale mentioned that people on campus thought that the prototype meant that the Gen Ed reform was a done deal, but the models are very different now, which is exciting and important. Provost Hale stated that the entire campus will be continuing the efforts to see the SACSCOC Reaffirmation indicating that a little more of the criteria are here and we are making good progress. The reaffirmation of our accreditation is incredibly important to our campus, it's not just an Academic Affairs issue. Provost Hale said that most of the criteria on which we are evaluated on are with all aspects of the University and divisions of the University. SACSCOC expects for every reaffirmation for each of its accredited universities to have a plan that is directly related to student success outcomes and a plan where the university is expected to make a significant financial investment over a period of 10 years where the plan is successful, and the student success outcomes has every opportunity to be achieved by UTC. Provost Hale thanked and recognized Dean Theresa Liedtka and Ms. Cindy Williamson with their hard work along with each of you on the committee with SACSCOC.

Dr. Forrest thanked Provost Hale and asked the committee if they had any further questions.

Dr. Forrest reported on the FY 2022 Update & FY 2023 Budget Planning. Dr. Forrest stated that we are in the FY 2022 and are planning FY 2023 that will begin July 1, 2022. **(Please review the FY 2022 Update & FY 2023 Budget Planning report that is on the Budget and Finance website along with the zoom recording that you can follow along with).**

Dr. Forrest asked Mr. Chris Sherbesman to please discuss and review the FY 2022-23 Proposed Budget Allocation Summary. **(Please review the FY 2022-23 Proposed Budget Allocation Summary on the Budget and Finance website along with the zoom recording that you can follow along with).** Mr. Sherbesman stated he will be going over a more detailed budget document, which should give a more context on our budget balance status. Mr. Sherbesman mentioned this document includes a summary page which reflects each divisions committed and requested funds totals, then a subsequent document which gives the line item details for each division.

Dr. Forrest thanked Mr. Sherbesman and asked the committee for any specific questions or comments.

Dr. Linda Frost asked about minimum wage for the campus and asked what is the minimum wage for students? Dr. Forrest stated that minimum wage is \$7.25 for students. Most students that are not on federal work study, make beyond the \$7.25 and the typical average is \$9.00.

Ms. Vanasia Parks asked will UTC be impacted on the proposed fee waivers that may be coming from the state on the teachers and public officers? Dr. Forrest stated he does not think there is any specific legislation that addresses this at this time. Dr. Forrest said that we do anticipate individuals serving in the military out-of-state to have an in-state rate waiver moving forward. This is noted on the budget form Mr. Sherbesman reviewed.

Dr. Pack asked what is the HEERF one time impact going forward? Dr. Forrest stated assuming the revenue is stabilized, and enrollment is not impacted, the revenue side of the equation is negligible. On the expense side, we are phasing out all the COVID expenses as the revenue stream is running out and the pandemic is in a different state. Dr. Forrest mentioned what dollars are left should be expensed for projects at the tail end of the pandemic, such as touchless door access, facilities and IT items that need to be fully expensed. Dr. Forrest stated there may be an extension, but it would be tied to committed items only. Dr. Forrest said that the process of balancing and navigating these expenses are not easy, but we feel we have expensed it fairly and appropriately per the Federal guidelines. Mr. Sherbesman stated that the HEERF dollars for our campus have done what they have been designed to do and closed the gaps between the shortfalls that COVID brought us. Mr. Sherbesman said the HEERF dollars will fill the enrollment decline, operational and instructional changes.

Tammy Garland asked if UTC had a contingency plan if there was a reemergence of COVID in the Fall. Dr. Forrest mentioned that they will be ready for this, but the outcome will be different. Dr. Forrest asked Dr. Yancy Freeman to comment about this. Dr. Freeman stated that he has been meeting with the COVID Response Group with Dr. Chris Smith, her Team and Health Affairs to discuss what this will look like if we have another COVID spike the beginning of the Fall. Dr. Freeman said they have put together a preliminary plan that they will share with the Executive Leadership Team for discussion. Dr. Freeman mentioned like any other plan, they are associated with dollars, but they are in the process of discussing if another spike of COVID occurs.

Chancellor Angle stated that there are more discussions with the legislator and guidance from the state regarding what we can and cannot do in response to a COVID spike.

Chancellor Angle said we have changed the UT Promise Scholarship, which is a last dollar scholarship impacting students with an effective family income of \$60K or less. Chancellor Angle mentioned that one of the last dollar programs we count on ahead of the UT Promise is the Hope Scholarship. The Governor proposed increasing the scholarship dollars to \$5,100.00 per student per year. Chancellor Angle stated that for freshman and sophomores the dollars are \$3,500.00 and for juniors and seniors it is \$4,500.00, and this will impact our financial aid availability. Chancellor Angle was in Nashville a few weeks ago and he talked to several legislators to discuss the scholarships competing proposals. Chancellor Angle stated that UTC is very pleased that the Governor is looking at increasing dollar amounts, and UTC supports making education more affordable for our students and families. Chancellor Angle mentioned that this is a great program, but he is not sure how this will impact our bottom line, but if they increase the dollars, this should impact affordability. Chancellor Angle mentioned that if the Governor's proposal is adopted, it would cover half of our tuition as this would help our students.

Dr. Forrest thanked the Chancellor for this information.

Mr. Sherbesman mentioned that they are following up in a subsequent meeting and sharing this information with the campus wide budget officers

Dr. Forrest thanked the committee for their hard work and for the information they sent in as this helped the Budget Office with creating this working document. Dr. Forrest asked the committee if they had any other questions or concerns regarding all the information they have received today. Dr. Forrest stated that after reviewing the document, please let us hear back from each of you by either calling the Budget and Finance Office or via the "Budget Chatt" inquiry/dialogue - located on the Budget and Finance website, as it is anonymous, to give feedback, comments or to ask any questions regarding any aspect of the budget process. **(You may follow the presentation with the recorded ZOOM placed on Budget and Finance website).**