Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2026

Present: Senator Lindsay Anderson, Senator Mark Chaires, Senator Poliala Dickson, Senator Mohammad Galib, Senator Cynthia George, Senator Retta Guy, Senator Mohammad Habibi, Senator Kamrul Hasan, Senator Liang Hong, Senator Selma Izadi, Senator Kwaku Kankam, Senator Teresia Mbogori, Senator Monique McCallister, Senator Emily Murray, Senator Brian Nagy, Senator Wanda Payne, Senator Nsoki Phambu, Senator Sean Posey, Senator Sudipta Rakshit, Senator Ljerka Rasmussen, Senator Marquita Reed, Senator Kate Requist, Senator Trenna Richardson, Senator Miranda Sanford-Terry, Senator James Scholz, Senator Alex Sekwat, Chair Martene Stanberry, Trustee Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi; Dr. Jemal Gishe, Dr. Rafael Harun, Dr. Lisa Krajecki, Dr. Kimberly Triplett, Provost Erik Schmeller, President Dwayne Tucker

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm by Chair Martene Stanberry.

President Dwayne Tucker provided updates related to enrollment, tenure and promotion, and salary. The new student enrollment was expected to be around 1,500. The reinstatement of tenure and promotion may be recommended to the Board of Trustees at the upcoming September meeting. If the university meets certain financial goals, then a one-time lump sum payment will be received from the 1.3% allocated by the state of Tennessee. It is projected that beginning July 1, 2027 annual salary increases will be given.

Chair Martene Stanberry presented the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes for approval. Senator Poliala Dickson moved to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Trustee Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi presented a report, and it will be shared with the Senate body.

Chair Martene Stanberry presented Senator Alex Sekwat as a candidate for the position of Senate Secretary and Senator Alex Sekwat introduced himself. Senator Alex Sekwat was elected Faculty Senate Secretary (25 For, 0 Against).

Chair Martene Stanberry moved for votes on the probationary employment language changes; removal of the clause *"Faculty members on tenure-track appointments shall not be terminated during the term of the annual appointment as stated in the employment contract except for reasons which would be sufficient for the termination of tenured faculty."* and the addition of the following sentences *"Tenure-track faculty are faculty who are employed in a probationary period of employment prior to consideration for tenure. Tenure-track faculty appointments do not include any right to permanent or continuous employment, shall not create any manner of legal right, interest, or expectancy of renewal or any other type of appointment, and shall be subject to*

annual renewal by the university." and the motion was seconded. After debate, Chair Martene Stanberry withdrew the motion. Senator Sanford-Terry moved to table the vote and the motion was seconded. Then, the motion was amended to table the vote pending a legal review. The motion passed (23 For, 3 Against).

Standing committee chair elections will be held at the September 17, 2026 Faculty Senate General Body Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.

Approved by the Faculty Senate on September 17, 2026.

