

PRESENT

Michele Atkins, Mary Beth Burlison, Alicia Calderon (campus partner), Jon Chandler, Shane Colter, Jamie Cyphers, John Goddard, Dr. Jessi Gold (guest speaker), Allyson Graves, Lauren Hatcher, Melissa Jenkins, Bonnie Johnson, Beth Kurtz, Amanda Middleton, David Moore, Kim Raia, Julie Roe, Tonya Sartin, Sam Smith, Hillary Tune, Matt Ward, Tanya Washington, Leslie Wereszczak, and Lisa Yamagata-Lynch

ABSENT

Christopher Binkley, George Drinnon, DeAnna Flinchum, Marcus Hilliard, and LaShel Stevens

1. WELCOME

Beth Kurtz, Exempt Staff Council (ESC) Chair-elect, welcomed everyone to the June 2024 meeting and reflected on the National Championship won the previous night by the UT Baseball team.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New UT System Chief Wellness Officer Position – Dr. Jessi Gold, UT System Chief Wellness Officer
Dr. Jessi Gold, the new UT System Chief Wellness Officer, joined the ESC to discuss her role and gather ideas of what the staff members see as a need for wellness options. The position is new and undefined, with a goal of looking across the entire University System and seeing what wellness programs are being offered and to potentially upgrade them if needed. If you have any questions or ideas you would like to speak to Dr. Gold about, you can reach her at jgold11@uthsc.edu.
- b. Human Resources Update – Julie Roe, Employee Relations Manager
The UT, Knoxville Finance and Administration Office is hosting a DASH Fair in the Student Union, room 362 on July 10th, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will preview the Oracle System and provide an overview of select processes. To learn more about this event, visit the [Hub page](#) for the event.

Sick Leave Bank open enrollment ends on June 30, 2024. For more information regarding the sick leave bank visit:

<https://liveutk.sharepoint.com/sites/HR/SitePages/Sick-Leave.aspx>. For questions, or to submit your application, email sickleavebank@utk.edu.

Mid-year Reviews have opened in the OPR system. You may now complete a 2024 mid-year review at www.opr.utk.edu and will be live on the OPR system during June, July, and August. These are currently optional.

Human Resources is currently planning a Benefits Bonanza event, where employees can discover and learn more about the benefits available to them at the University of Tennessee. This event will be on September 12th, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union. More information will be distributed closer to the event.

c. Committee Updates

There were no updates provided for Faculty Senate, the Police Advisory Council, the University Leadership Council, and the Council for Diversity and Inclusion.

The Employee Relations Advisory Board (ERAB) met on May 22nd to consider how they can realign the group. The group met with Dr. Matthew Painter, the new Executive Director for Employee Engagement and Organizational Development, to transition responsibility and brainstorm ideas for revamping and realigning ERAB to serve as an active, high-functioning advisory group. A recommendation of a revised meeting schedule that includes additional ERAB preparation meetings before the meeting with President Boyd was suggested. It was agreed to cover more system-level agenda items with the ERAB policy and processes that affect all UT employees. Campus specific issues will be addressed at the campus level. There is also a desire to provide time for President Boyd to share agenda items with the ERAB, which would serve as a feedback stream (employee voice) across the system.

3. CONSTITUENT ISSUES

- a. **(Q):** Why did the 401K contribution match reduce from \$100 to \$50?

(A): Jon Chandler, Human Resources, shared the 401K contribution match is made by the State of Tennessee, not the University. The original \$100 contribution match was supposed to be a 1-year increase for the 2022-2023 financial year. The match was extended one extra year for the 2023-2024 financial year. The 401K contribution match has gone back to a \$50 match for the 2024-2025 year.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Next meeting- July 23, 2024 at 2:30 pm EST.
b. Please email Shane Colter (colters@utk.edu) and Sam Smith (samsmith5@utk.edu) with constituent issue or questions the Friday (by noon) before the next meeting.