**Exempt Staff Council**

Tuesday, April 24, 2018– 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

1610 University Ave. – Room 118

***MEETING MINUTES***

1. **Welcome**

Mr. Heath Nokes, ESC Chair, welcomed everyone to the January meeting of the Exempt Staff Council.

1. **External Commission Reports**
* **Commission for Blacks — None**
* **Commission for Women — Teresa Fisher**

Dr. Davenport visited the commission and asked the commission to revamp the mission statement.

* **LGBT Commission — Eric Carr**

The LGBTQ Health Symposium was held on April 6, 2018 and it was a great success.

* **Faculty Senate — John Goddard**

Dr. Davenport visited Faculty Senate.

1. **Website update -Nicholas Simson**

Mr. Simson has volunteered to update the ESC website. View <https://esc.utk.edu/> for more information. If you have any suggestions and/or feedback, he can be reached at nsimson@utk.edu.

1. **Election Update- Deanna Flinchum**

Ms. Flinchum was not present, but Mr. Heath Nokes, ESC Chair, shared the following:

The ESC elections are underway. Newly elected representatives will be invited to the June ESC meeting. New representatives’ three-year term officially starts July 1, 2018. Below are the groups that are up for ESC election this year:

* Administration & Finance
* Law, Comm, Nursing, Arch
* Extension - East
* Business
* Student Affairs
* Chancellor
* Athletics

Julie Roe, Human Resources, clarified that an email went out today with incorrect data. A correction message has also been sent. Please ignore the first call for nominations. Place nominations using the subsequent messages.

1. **Issues/Questions from Constituents:**
* **UT Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

**Question:** The governmental rate for reimbursement of mileage is $0.545 according to the government website. UT reimburses at a rate of $0.47 and this has not been updated since 2014. Why does UT not use the governmental rate of $0.545 per mile and when will they update the rates?

**Answer:** Ms. Julie Roe, Sr. Employee Relations Counselor for Human Resources, contacted Mr. Mark Paganelli, Executive Director for Treasurer, prior to the meeting. Mr. Paganelli provided the following response:The University have always used the rate established by the State of Tennessee. Tennessee is historically below the national average. Rates have not been raised because gas prices are so low.

* **Sick Leave Policy**

**Question:** Can we add sick leave usage for grandchildren in the Sick Leave Policy?

**Answer:** Ms. Julie Roe, Sr. Employee Relations Counselor for Human Resources, contacted Mr. Jonathan Gushen, Director for Benefits & Retirement, prior to the meeting. Mr. Gushen provided the following response:the University follows the state statute. Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 8-50-802 states immediate family and does not specifically include grandchildren for the use of sick leave. Any expansion of the UT policy would be outside of TCA.

Additionally, Policy HR0340 Funeral and Bereavement Leave provides 3 days of paid leave for funeral and bereavement for the death of a grandchild. Employees may also request annual leave in addition to funeral/bereavement leave

* **Motorcycle Parking Spaces on Campus**

**Question:** Why did Parking & Transit Services recently add more motorcycle parking spaces in Lot 12? Those spaces took away some of the 30-minute parking spaces but seldom have motorcycles parking there.

**Answer:** Mr. Brian Browning, Executive Director for Finance & Administration, contacted Mr. Mark Hairr, Director for Parking & Transit Services, prior to the meeting. Mr. Hairr provided the following response: The Volunteer Blvd Streetscape Project required the removal of all motorcycle parking on the sidewalk at the intersection of Volunteer Blvd & Melrose Place by the northeast entrance to Hodges Library. This motorcycle parking area was the busiest one on campus so we needed to identify a nearby area to relocate the parking. Since there was no place in the immediate area to relocate the parking, we determined the best nearby area was along Melrose Ave across from Melrose Hall. Since we already had a total of 16 loading zone spaces along this stretch, we thought converting 6 of these spaces to create 12 motorcycle spaces was a reasonable approach since that still leaves 10 loading zone spaces along the street. Although the use of these spaces was minimal at first due to cold and inclement weather the last few months, their use is increasing with the warmer weather and we expect the spaces to be full during peak times once the fall semester begins.

1. **Next Meeting**

May 22, 2018 @ 2:30pm at UT Institute for Public Service – 1610 University Ave., Room 118