



A Joint Statement in Response to HB 2115 and SB 2260

Whereas, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees is the final authority in establishing policies that regulate the University employment and life of all faculty and students in the University of Tennessee System, and

Whereas, UT System faculty and students offer invaluable information and advice to the UT Board of Trustees on topics with which Board members may not be familiar, and

Whereas approximately 50,000 students and over 11,000 employees have chosen a University of Tennessee System school as their higher education institution and place of work, and

Whereas, the General Assembly is considering bills (HB2116/SB2260) that would remove UT System faculty and students from the UT Board of Trustees, and

Whereas, though the proposed legislation creates advisory boards for each UT System campus with both a voting student and voting faculty member, this would result in two of the most important assets of the UT System having no voice during deliberations of the full UT Board of Trustees when final decisions are made affecting their lives and careers, and

Whereas, the Student Government Associations of the UT System feel that this is not in the best interest of the University System, its faculty or students, and

Whereas, it is the duty of the Student Government Associations to wholly advocate and preserve the security of the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Tennessee System, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government Associations of the University of Tennessee System strongly encourage members of the General Assembly to amend HB2115 and SB2260 to continue allowing direct representation of students and faculty on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Associations of the UT System do not believe that the voting student and faculty members present on the proposed advisory boards for each UT campus will allow for strong enough representation of the voices of the student and faculty bodies within the UT system as they would not have any final say on the decisions being made by the full UT Board of Trustees.

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Associations of the UT System support the current student and faculty representation method in which there are two faculty (one voting and one non-voting) and two students (one voting and one non-voting) present on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees at all times.

Rachel Emond (UTC SGA President)

Lee Pribyl (UTHSC SGA Executive Council President)

Morgan Hartgrove (UTK SGA President)

Jordan Long (UTM SGA President)

James Myers (UTC SGA President)

Sergio Bedford (UTK GSS President)

Julie King (UTSI SGA President)

Rachel Smith (UT Voting Student Trustee)

Andrew McBride (UT Non-Voting Student Trustee)