

**UTK-UTIA Faculty Senate Resolution
on University of Tennessee Presidential Searches**

WHEREAS, trust and support for the integrity of the search process is vital to the future success of the person selected by the UT Board of Trustees to serve as President; and

WHEREAS, competitive processes attract a strong and diverse pool of candidates that encourages a cross-fertilization of ideas and innovation; and

WHEREAS, the sitting president has acknowledged the value of open searches to identify and recruit diverse candidates that can foster a more inclusive climate; and

WHEREAS, we believe the presidential search process should be consistent with search processes for the best faculty and campus administrators by striving to create an open and rigorous process to attract the most diverse and qualified applicants; and

WHEREAS, the UT System is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants should receive consideration for employment; and

WHEREAS, a successful and accepted selection process includes a broad spectrum of stakeholders including faculty and administrators from across the relevant units, departments, colleges, and campuses; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to uphold and expect adherence to the principles of shared governance as reflected in our Faculty Handbook (1.7), which is a contract between the university and the faculty consistent with UT Board of Trustee policies; and

WHEREAS, the December 2019 Comptroller's Performance Audit Report advocated for more transparency with UT Board of Trustees decision-making, stating "The UT Board may wish to amend existing bylaws to ensure the transparency of future interim and acting appointments, especially appointments made for significant periods of time." (p. 48);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the UTK-UTIA Faculty Senate calls on the UT Board of Trustees to amend its bylaws to ensure a rigorous, open and inclusive search process for future presidential searches.

LINKS:

[Tenn. Code § 49-7-154](#)

[University of Tennessee Board of Trustees Bylaws VI.4\(a\)](#)

[December 2018 Comptroller's Report, page 47-48.](#)