

Resolution from the Faculty Senate Benefits Committee
Request to Study Implementation of Wellness Program for UT Faculty and Staff
Mar. 22, 2007

WHEREAS: A healthy workforce is the foundation of an effective organization, and

WHEREAS: The University has resources in public health, social work, nutrition, nursing, psychology, health education, occupational safety, human resources and other disciplines that are involved in promoting healthy lifestyles, and

WHEREAS: Research shows that wellness programs in corporations contribute to reduced medical care expenditures, and

WHEREAS: The State of Tennessee's Wellness Program for State employees specifically EXCLUDES higher education employees, and

WHEREAS: A growing number of private and public universities offer some type of organized wellness program for faculty and staff, examples being University of Kentucky, Florida State University, University of California at Berkeley and the University of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS: Models of wellness programs exist at other Tennessee universities, such as Tennessee Tech University, East Tennessee State, Middle Tennessee State and the University of Memphis, and

WHEREAS: Options exist with some insurance carriers serving UT for limited wellness activities,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Chancellor's office appoint a chairperson by May 1, 2007 to recruit and lead a task force to investigate the aforementioned options for a UT Faculty & Staff Wellness Program and that a committee be appointed by August 1, 2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the task force examine issues related to creation of a UT Faculty Staff Wellness Program including, but not limited to:

- a. quantifying potential benefits and costs of a wellness program to UT
- b. identifying specific benefits to employees willing to participate in a wellness program
- c. identifying means of promoting participation in a wellness program among university employees
- d. identifying potential resources to facilitate the creation and operation of a wellness program website
- e. identifying process and timeline to implement a UT Faculty & Staff Wellness Program

and that the task force prepare a written recommendation and provide it to the Chancellor and the Faculty Senate by January 1, 2008.