

(Approved 17 April 2002)

Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting January 23, 2002

Present: Antar, Bomar, Caruthers, Coleman, Collins, Crater, Davis, Garrison, Hailey, Jensen, Joseph, Kupershmidt, W. Lewis, Merkle, Moulden, Muehlhauser, Parigger, Petersen, Pujol, Schulz, Sheth, Smith, Solies, Steinhoff, Whitehead.

Guest: R. Crawford.

Absent: Chen, Dahotre, Engels, Flandro, Keefer, Kimberlin, Kimble, J. Lewis, M. H. McCay, T. D. McCay, Shahrokhi, Stellar, Vakili.

Meeting began at 10:07 am in H-111 with Solies presiding. A quorum was present.

1) Minutes of December 5 and 23, 2001

It was moved by Kupershmidt and seconded by Sheth that the two sets of minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

2) ExComm – Solies

The ExComm had met the previous Wednesday to consider the formation of a special committee to act on the Assembly's behalf in providing input to the two UT Committees studying UTSI's future. At that meeting Bomar, a member of the Prados Committee, reported on that Committee's first meeting on January 14; the Committee received its charter and learned the history of UTSI from Prados and McCay. The Prados Committee will be collecting data on UTSI's academic programs and faculty for its next meeting on January 31, and will be meeting every two weeks thereafter.

Because of the urgency of the situation, the ExComm appointed a special Faculty Advisory Committee for Revitalization (FACR) to work on behalf of the faculty to advise the Prados Committee. It was composed of the Faculty Assembly President plus the Academic Program Chairs; Schulz was elected chair at its first meeting.

Even though the ExComm is allowed to appoint special committees under the Assembly's bylaws there were some questions raised as to the whether the Special Committee was representative of the faculty and whether it was democratically selected. After considerable discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Garrison and seconded by Kupershmidt, that the present special committee (FACR) be accepted by the Assembly with the understanding that it seek help from all faculty and keep the faculty informed concerning its activities. The motion passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Collins and seconded by Parigger that data should be shared with all faculty so it can be checked for accuracy before it is submitted to the Prados Committee. The motion passed without dissent.

Caruthers reported that some information had already been prepared for the Prados Committee and included both academic program and individual faculty data, including employment letters. Concern was expressed about the correct reporting of research effort by faculty, especially those not listed as PI's on a contract. To help correct this problem Muehlhauser agreed to submit research effort data to all faculty for individual corrections. Muehlhauser also indicated that he would request updated 2-page resumes from all faculty for submission to the Prados Committee.

Merkle reported that the Kraft Committee had met twice and would meet again in two weeks. That Committee's efforts were being concentrated on determining the research focus for UTSI in the future.

3) Budget Committee – Jensen

Jensen passed out a spreadsheet illustrating UTSI's financial status through the first 6 months of FY02 along with a comparison with all of FY02 and the similar periods for FY01. Jensen indicated that unrestricted revenue was down for first 6 months about \$370K, including student fees down \$29K, short course down \$21 K, and indirect cost recoveries down \$93K. The revenue projected for the entire year

is about \$283 K less than budgeted amount. The projected salaries for the year are also greater than budgeted amounts. In response to a question Jensen said that state appropriations do not pay for all salaries. It would be necessary to reduce expenditures so we do not finish the year with a deficit.

Some of the Streamlining Task Force's recommendations have been implemented but staff reductions have not occurred; they have been delayed since August 2001 by Knoxville. Caruthers indicated that although solutions to some fiscal problems are known their implementation has not been allowed by Knoxville.

4) COO Report – Caruthers

Loren Crabtree, will be at UTSI on February 1 as part of a System to Campus visit.

Caruthers was preparing a position paper dealing with the future of UTSI. The following issues were to be considered:

- a) Vision for UTSI in 10-20 years
- b) New area(s) of research focus outside traditional aerospace (Biophysics, for example)
- c) Focus areas within our traditional aerospace research
- d) The Academic Programs we want to continue to support with limited tenured faculty available. Need to focus on certain areas only.
- e) New ways to meet our service mission as it relates to Middle TN -- education and economy
- f) Academic and administrative relationship to UT
- g) New relationship with AEDC and ORNL

A motion was made by Antar and seconded by Collins that the Faculty hold a retreat to consider the points introduced by Caruthers and make specific recommendations for revitalizing UTSI. The motion passed unanimously. Antar agreed to head the planning effort for the retreat.

5) Announcements

Steinhoff – the Flying Club is selling jackets to raise money to pay for insurance.

Solies – John Greeter had been elected President of the UTSI Support Council the previous evening

6) The meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Joseph
Assembly Secretary
25 February 2002