

(Approved 17 April 2002)

Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting March 13, 2002

Present: Antar, Bomar, Caruthers, Coleman, Crater, Davis, Garrison, Hailey, Jensen, Joseph, Muehlhauser, Petersen, Schulz, Smith, Solies, Whitehead.

Absent: Chen, Collins, Dahotre, Engels, Flandro, Keefer, Kimberlin, Kimble, Kupersmidt, J. Lewis, W. Lewis, M. H. McCay, T. D. McCay, Merkle, Moulden, Parigger, Pujol, Shahrokhi, Sheth, Steinhoff, Stellar, Vakili.

Meeting began at 10:10 am in E-112 with Solies presiding. *A quorum was not present.*

1) ExComm – Solies

The ExComm met the previous Wednesday to plan the agenda and discuss the activities of the Prados and Kraft UTSI study committees.

2) Budget – Jensen

It was reported that the financial situation at UTSI is not much improved from the last Assembly meeting. The IRIS accounting system presently does not allow easy access to faculty salary recovery figures; an abbreviated version listing faculty charges for sponsored research and short courses was distributed. Funds in Faculty Research Accounts, with the exception of travel funds, will be carried over to next year. Probable budgets for the rest of FY02 and proposed budgets for FY03 will be requested soon. Budgets for FY03 will start with a 5% reduction. In answer to a question Jensen indicated that comparison of revenue and expenditures in a given year determines UTSI financial status. In answer to another question Jensen said that UTSI will be billed for \$61K for the lease of a building on Pellissippi Parkway for the Material Science Group.

3) Education – Caruthers

Student enrollment now stands at 167 with 45 in Engineering Management and 35 in Aviation Systems; 27 are from AEDC. It seems very difficult to attract more students and improve on these figures until the new UT President gives approval for some new direction for UTSI. Greater interaction with Huntsville industries and government agencies, Space Flight Engineering short courses in California, and Ph.D. in engineering management at AEDC were listed as possible avenues for improved student enrollment.

The new website developed by the students will be available soon be at an alternate site for comments. After a short trial period it will be converted over to the regular UTSI Website.

Caruthers prepared a white paper for the Prados Committee's visit to UTSI. It was agreed to forward the white paper to faculty using the Faculty Assembly list.

4) New Direction for UTSI – Caruthers

The Kraft Committee is going very slowly, with the possibility of a first draft of its report in March very unlikely. Meetings have provided a large number of divergent views about UTSI's possible new direction. Governor Sundquist and new UT President Shumaker seem to favor putting an automotive research center at UTSI. Solies indicated that the Kraft Committee had been requested to consider hearing faculty presentations just as the Prados Committee did.

5) Faculty Senate Report – Antar

Antar reported that Dr. Shumaker had attended the Senate meeting of March 4 and seemed to very faculty oriented. At the meeting a procedure for titling contingent faculty was passed; it will be used on a trial basis until December of 2003.

6) Prados Committee March 12, 2002 – Bomar

No final recommendations have been determined yet. The committee is still waiting for the Kraft Committee to make some determination about UTSI's future direction. The Kraft Committee has suggested a greater cooperation between UTSI and AFIT for increased enrollment. Mancil Milligan of the MAES Department at UTK made a presentation to the Prados Committee suggesting a much tighter relationship between UTSI and UTK.

7) Announcements

- i) Caruthers will be asking for faculty help in preparing the brochure advertising UTSI's academic and research programs.
- ii) Solies reminded the faculty that the 2002-2003 election for officers and standing committees would take place at the next meeting.

8) The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Joseph
Assembly Secretary
8 April 2002