

(Approved 23 January 2002)

Minutes of the *Special* Faculty Assembly Meeting December 13, 2001

Present: Bomar, Caruthers, Crater, Davis, Garrison, Jensen, Joseph, Kimberlin, Kimble, J. Lewis, W. Lewis, Moulden, Muehlhauser, Pujol, Sheth, Smith, Solies, Stellar, Whitehead. Guest: J. Z. Wu

Absent: Antar, Chen, Coleman, Collins, Dahotre, Engels, Flandro, Hailey, Keefer, Kupersmidt, M. H. McCay, T. D. McCay, Merkle, Parigger, Petersen, Schulz, Shahrokhi, Steinhoff, Vakili.

Meeting began at 10:07 am in Lower A-wing Short Course Room with Solies presiding. A quorum was not present initially.

Since the meeting had no specific agenda but dealt in general with actions of the UTSI Support Council and UT Board of Trustees, and with UTSI's planned response to the Barber report these minutes will be an outline of a discussion of these items led mostly by COO Caruthers.

1) UT Board of Trustees (BOT)

The BOT received the Barber Report and accepted the recommendations of Acting President Fly to have the two study committees complete their work by July 2002 to "identify strategies that will allow UTSI to become strong and vibrant once again". This result was accomplished through the efforts of a number of organizations and people including John Greeter and the UTSI Support Council, Larry Nee and the *Tullahoma News*, and Mr. Fly who was able to cast UTSI's situation in the best light and allow UTSI the opportunity to revitalize itself. It had been learned at the BOT meeting that the study committees would include faculty; Caruthers and Crabtree will work on influencing the committee structure.

2) UTSI to report to Vice President and Provost at UTK (Loren Crabtree)

As announced by Acting President Fly, UTSI will now report to the Vice President and Provost at UTK rather than the Vice President for Research and Information Technology "to provide a closer relationship with the Knoxville campus". Caruthers was not sure whether this was a temporary or permanent relation but felt that it would be beneficial for UTSI. Discussions with Crabtree have already resulted in the decision that expanded distance learning at UTSI can't be expected to solve our cost/student problem. It would be better to form 10 centers for research at UTSI using highly productive faculty, which could in turn attract students and other faculty and staff. Training courses for both AEDC and Huntsville should also be able to increase our student base.

3) UTSI Support Council

The members of the Support Council have joined together again as an important instrument for the support of UTSI. So there will be no apparent conflict with his membership on the BOT, Steve Ennis will call for the election a new president of the Support Council soon.

4) Reallocation Task Force Recommendations, Realignment of Academic/Research Programs

Task Force Recommendations will be implemented, but since staff reductions are involved legal approval is still being sought at Knoxville. Some academic programs may be eliminated to provide support for the more successful top programs at UTSI. It may be possible to share academic offering with other universities to service the programs that remain. The ideal research program might involve 10 faculty with \$1M and 10 faculty with about \$100K per year plus some endowed chairs. A certain vision is needed to revitalize UTSI for the future but in the short term we must be able to deal with the problem of reduced research funding and reduced student enrollment. Even though UTK faculty will be receiving a 4-6% average salary increase in the new year UTSI will not be receiving the same since no additional funds are available for that purpose and it does not seem fair to increase faculty salary while laying off staff.

5) The faculty present agreed to meet in an off-the-record meeting on January 9, 2002. In general the meeting would be used to discuss the new revitalization plan of Caruthers, and the faculty's interaction with the Barber Report Committees and the Support Council.

6) The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Joseph
Assembly Secretary
15 January 2002