

(Approved 5 March 2003)

## **Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting January 22, 2003**

Present: Caruthers, Chen, Coleman, Crater, Davis, Hailey, Joseph, Kimberlin, Kupersmidt, J. Lewis, Merkle, Moulden, Muehlhauser, Petersen, Pujol, Ranaudo, Schulz, Sheth, Solies, Whitehead.

Absent: Antar, Bomar, Collins, Dahotre, Flandro, Garrison, Jensen, Keefer, Kimble, M. H. McCay, Parigger, Smith, Steinhoff, Vakili.

Meeting began at 10:03 am in Lower A Short Course Room with Schulz presiding.

*A quorum was not present initially.*

### 1) Executive Committee – Schulz

The ExComm met the previous Wednesday to prepare the agenda for the present meeting. Since the report presenting the plans for the revitalization of UTSI was in the final stages of preparation, it was decided to devote the major portion of the Assembly meeting to its discussion. UT's President Shumaker and Executive VP Leonard had presented the main points of the plan to the UTSI Support Council the evening before (January 21).

### 2) Research – Muehlhauser

- EPSCoR Proposal  
Reporting for Garrison, Muehlhauser announced that the planning grant of \$200K had been received and that the final award submission was due on July 17. To facilitate start up of the effort, funds would be provided for instrumentation, computers, and faculty time. For further information questions should be directed to Garrison who is PI for the entire state of TN.
- AEDC Task Order  
A new \$400K task order will be released within the next month.

*A quorum was achieved.*

### 3) Minutes of October 16 and November 27, 2002

It was moved by Whitehead and seconded by Crater to approve both sets of minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4) Library – Crater

Through the efforts of Provost Crabtree, early in 2003 UTSI faculty was supposed to have access to the same electronic journals available at UTK. Thus far this has not happened, even though certain "faculty affiliates" at ORNL have been granted this access.

### 5) Education – Pujol and Caruthers

- Spring 2003 Registration  
Pujol announced that as of January 21 134 students had registered, compared to 168 in Spring of 2002. These figures included 27 students from AEDC during both semesters. Within these numbers Aviations Systems increased slightly from 38 to 39 while IE and AE decreased, 54 to 32 and 18 to 10 respectively.

- New Faculty  
Caruthers introduced Rich Ranaudo, new Assistant Research Professor of Aviation Systems. Ranaudo has been active in NASA's icing research program and is the first new faculty member hired in UTSI's rejuvenation program.

#### 6) COO Report – Caruthers

At this point Caruthers gave an extended presentation concerning the latest plan for restructuring UTSI. This involved discussion of some of the background with the State Legislature and UT as well as the specifics of the plans presented the night before by UT President Shumaker and Executive VP Leonard.

Recently Legislature pressure has been applied requiring UTSI to justify its existence. Early efforts to rejuvenate UTSI were thwarted by UTK's refusal to allow the hiring of new faculty. UTK had no faith in UTSI's ability to improve itself and wanted to eliminate the math, physics and chemical engineering programs at UTSI.

Shumaker asked Leonard to assemble opinions about UTSI. Caruthers and Leonard spent the last 8 weeks preparing a plan for rejuvenating UTSI. This will call for UTSI to report directly to the Executive VP at UT and it is felt that Leonard will see that UTSI thrives.

With the support of Shumaker the plan calls for the following items:

- Change the name of the Space Institute to something with a broader significance than just space (UT Science Institute, for example).
- Focus research efforts in five major areas: transportation and automotive, energy, biophysics, propulsion and aerospace, and computational modeling and simulation. It is expected that success in these areas will have a significant economic impact and make UTSI the epicenter for economic development in the State of Tennessee.
- Add a business development office at UTSI to focus on raising funds for research. Obtain or share the services of a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. to keep abreast of developments there.
- With UT support, hire new faculty capable of attracting research funding up to \$1M/year. Keep number of tenured faculty at 30 while growing the total research funding to \$10M by 2008 and \$20M by 2013.
- Reduce the number of academic program at UTSI from 12 to 8. Engineering Management and Industrial Engineering will be transferred to UTK. Computer Science program has already been eliminated; one faculty member remains to participate in research activities and teach courses for other campuses in TN. Material Science has no students at UTSI and will be eliminated.

Since the plan for rejuvenation calls for 30 faculty to provide research funding of \$10M by 2008 or about \$330K/faculty, it will be necessary to redefine the criteria used to measure faculty accountability. The faculty was asked to come up with suggestions for evaluating faculty in yearly reviews under these new circumstances.

Since he has not been able to devote sufficient time to the Academic Dean part of his responsibilities lately, Caruthers indicated that he would soon appoint someone to assist with those duties. It was suggested from the floor that K. C. Reddy would be a good candidate for that job.

Caruthers said that UTSI would remain a graduate educational institute and retain the same academic relationship to UTK as before, reporting through the Provost for academic matters. New faculty will be hired in Aviation Systems, Plasmas, Biophysics, and Propulsion in an effort to start rebuilding the faculty.

7) The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Joseph  
Assembly Secretary  
24 February 2003