

(Approved 16 April 2003)

## **Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting March 5, 2003**

Present: Bomar, Coleman, Crater, Davis, Garrison, Hailey, Jensen, Joseph, Kimble, Merkle, Moulden, Pujol, Ranaudo, Schulz, Sheth, Smith, Solies, Steinhoff, Whitehead.

Absent: Antar, Caruthers, Chen, Collins, Dahotre, Flandro, Keefer, Kimberlin, Kupershmidt, J. Lewis, M. H. McCay, Muehlhauser, Parigger, Petersen, Vakili.

Guest: Reddy

Meeting began at 10:07 am in H-111 with Schulz presiding.

*A quorum was not present initially.*

### 1) Education - Reddy, Pujol

Reddy reported that the Summer 2003 academic program announcement would be prepared the next week. Input was also requested on the support of faculty activities for the summer; a memo from Barbara Ervin would be sent out the next week seeking such information.

Pujol indicated that recent student recruiting trips had been made to Case Western Reserve, Tennessee Tech, LSU and South Dakota. Any student resumes received are being monitored by Reddy and forwarded to the appropriate Program Chairs for action. Information packets are sent to students but direct faculty e-mail contact was also encouraged. If no faculty research support is available, UTSI funds for support of very good students should be requested.

The question of sharing student applications with UTK was brought up especially with regard to Chemical Engineering. Faculty members were encouraged to interact with their respective departments at UTK on this matter; prospective students should designate UTSI as their campus of interest on the online application form.

### 2) Budget – Jensen

Because of the State's fiscal problems the financial situation at both UT and UTSI is not good. No definite news about any impoundment for FY2003 has been received but one involving up to 5% can be anticipated. The proposed State budget cut of 9% for FY 2004 would result in a reduction of about \$640K at UTSI.

*A quorum was achieved.*

### 3) Minutes of January 22, 2003

It was moved by Crater and seconded by Sheth to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4) Nominations/Senate Election – Crater, Kimble

Nominations Committee Chair Crater urged members to submit nominations for next year's officers. The required number of candidates had been found for the Executive Committee but nominations were still needed for President-elect and Secretary. Nominations were to be submitted by April 9 for the election on April 16, 2003.

Kimble, acting on behalf of the current representatives to the UTK Faculty Senate, conducted the election for a new Senator to serve for the next three-year term. Bomar had been nominated previously and two additional candidates, Sheth and Coleman, were nominated from

the floor. Bomar was elected by a secret ballot and will be in office 2003-2006.

5) NSF EPSCoR Proposal – Garrison

It was announced that the original request for a planning grant had been turned down, but the effort will be continued to obtain such a grant. Tennessee is just on the edge of being eligible to apply for the EPSCoR grant and it was felt that the initial proposal needed greater support from the Governor and Legislature of Tennessee. It is not a standard NSF grant since it involves an attempt to move the whole state of Tennessee forward. UTSI is teaming with a number of other public and private universities in Tennessee on the proposal and a number of important areas need to be included. The faculty was asked to investigate further by visiting the Web Site (<http://epscor.tennessee.edu>). A new proposal is due by May 1, 2003 and would provide funds for a one year \$200K planning grant.

6) COO Report – Reddy for Caruthers

- a) Negotiations are underway to transfer M. H. McCay to UTK as long as there is no net loss of funds to UTSI.
- b) Efforts are progressing in acquiring advanced automotive research for UTSI. It is hoped that Senator Alexander will be some help in his position on the Senate Energy Committee.
- c) Executive VP Steve Leonard has arranged for lobbyists to help UTSI gain financial support for its research efforts. An economic summit on Advanced Vehicles will be held at UTSI on March 24.

7) UTK Senate Report – Schulz for Antar

Schulz distributed two Senate handouts concerning Senate Restructuring and the UT Vision Statement, seeking input to be forwarded to UTSI Senators. It was also reported that the Senate had been informed that there would be cuts in academic programs because of the State's fiscal problems (9% budget cut). Unproductive and weak academic programs will be removed. Administration has already been cut.

8) The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Joseph  
Assembly Secretary  
4 April 2003