

(Approved 10 Sept. 2003)
Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting
April 16, 2003

Present: Antar, Caruthers, Coleman, Crater, Davis, Hailey, Jensen, Joseph, Kimberlin, Kimble, Merkle, Moulden, Muehlhauser, Parigger, Pujol, Schulz, Sheth, Smith, Solies, Whitehead.

Absent: Bomar, Chen, Collins, Dahotre, Flandro, Garrison, Keefer, Kupershmidt, J. Lewis, M. H. McCay, Petersen, Ranaudo, Steinhoff, Vakili.

Guests: Reddy, C. Taylor

Meeting began at 10:06 am in Lower A-wing Short Course Room with Schulz presiding.

A quorum was not present initially.

1) Education - Reddy, Pujol

Reddy expressed concern over the lack of students being admitted and given offers for GRAs. When it was indicated by those present that the lack of student support funds was a major reason for not offering GRAs, the faculty was encouraged to request UTSI support for good student applicants. Faculty members were asked to look at the Website for a source of student applications to consider for admission and support.

Pujol indicated that North Carolina, Miami and an Atlanta job fair are to be visited in an effort to recruit graduate students. There is a need to admit students now since waiting until July and August is just too late to get top students. It was suggested that Pujol should meet with the program chairs to select worthy candidates for admission to the various departments.

2) Budget – Jensen

FY 2003 will end in a balanced condition even with the mandated reduction in expenditures of 5%. For the year student fees were less than expected while short course revenue was greater. Salary and fringe benefits were less than the previous year. The reduction of 9% for FY2004 would involve about \$680K for UTSI; a final determination on this reduction depends on the State Legislature's final approval of the Tennessee state budget. UTSI will have to be quite frugal to survive the 9% reduction in FY 2004.

A quorum was achieved.

3) Minutes of March 5, 2003

It was moved by Whitehead and seconded by Kimble to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Assembly Elections for 2003-2004 – Crater for Nominations Committee

Crater and Kimble had been nominated for president elect; Kimble was elected 15 to 3. Moulden, Parigger and Steinhoff had been nominated for the Executive Committee; Moulden and Parigger were elected with votes of 17 and 9 respectively to Steinhoff's 8. Since no candidate had been obtained for Secretary, nominations were solicited from the floor. After much discussion Crater agreed to be a candidate if a clerical secretary could be used to take Assembly minutes. Crater was then elected Secretary unanimously.

A motion was made by Kimberlin and seconded by Sheth to approve the slate of standing committee candidates prepared by the Executive Committee, with the one change that Crater should be replaced by Antar on the Budget Committee. The Education Committee was understood not to be included since its membership is determined by the Program Chairs appointed.

The following standing committee members were elected:

- Budget – Antar
- Bylaws – Coleman, Moulden, Whitehead
- Faculty Affairs – Bomar, Kupershmidt, J. Lewis
- Library – Ranaudo, Sheth, Schulz

Nominations – Antar, Garrison, Solies
Research – Muehlhauser, Bomar, Collins, Dahotre, Flandro, Keefer, Merkle, Sheth, Steinhoff,
Vakili, Whitehead
Student Affairs – Hailey, Kimberlin, Steinhoff

5) Library Committee – Crater

The fact that UTSI faculty still did not have access to the electronic journals at UTK was discussed. It was felt that Provost Crabtree was still delaying a final implementation of the process needed to give UTSI faculty full access; UTSI students have such access already. It was suggested that the Assembly sponsor a letter seeking action through the Library Committee.

A motion was made by Kimble and seconded by Antar that the Library Committee draft a letter in support of UTSI faculty access to electronic journals from UTK and submit the same through the Executive Committee and Caruthers. In fairness, an amendment was also introduced by Davis, and seconded by Whitehead, that UTK faculty should also have access to UTSI electronic journals as well. The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

6) Faculty Discussion – UTSI Revitalization Plan

Caruthers said the plan has not changed since Shumaker and Leonard presented it in January. Progress is being made in getting federal research funds for UTSI through the efforts of the UT Federal Relations Office and lobbying in Washington. Two projects involving Hypersonic Power Systems and Nuclear Electronic Propulsion have high priority for federal support. Efforts have been hampered somewhat this year due to a late start during the FY. Other efforts involve Merkle's presentation on the Prometheus Project, the hiring of a consultant for hypersonics and Steinhoff's effort to secure funding for a Homeland Security project involving \$5-10M.

Caruthers also announced that a memo of understanding had been drafted to transfer the Engineering Management Program from UTSI to UTK. This was to include the transfer of Coleman to UTK with funding by UTSI; Hailey and Garrison were to remain at UTSI for teaching in the program via distance education. The final acceptance of this plan by UTK is still unknown.

Caruthers indicated that CLA will not be moved to UTK. With both McCays leaving UT the part of CLA located on Pellissippi Parkway will return to UTSI. It is hope to retain all the equipment from CLA contracts.

It was noted by Davis that the faculty accountability document is also part of the UTSI revitalization plan. Antar felt that a meeting is needed for the faculty to discuss and either approve or modify the faculty accountability document. A motion was made by Antar, and seconded by Kimberlin, that a special meeting of the Faculty Assembly be called for April 30, 2003, to discuss both the revitalization plan and the faculty accountability document. The motion was approved unanimously.

7) Announcements

Coleman reported that he had attended a meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council Meeting on April 10; his notes describing the highlights of the meeting were distributed.

At the request of Wes McMinn, Schulz asked for a faculty representative to serve on the UTSI Safety Committee. Hailey volunteered to serve.

8) The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Joseph
Assembly Secretary
14 May 2003