

(Approved 22 Jan 2003)

Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting November 27, 2002

Present: Bomar, Caruthers, Garrison, Jensen, Joseph, Kimberlin, Merkle, Muehlhauser, Parigger, Pujol, Schulz, Sheth, Smith, Solies, Whitehead.

Absent: Antar, Chen, Coleman, Collins, Crater, Dahotre, Davis, Flandro, Hailey, Keefer, Kimble, Kupersmidt, J. Lewis, M. H. McCay, Moulden, Petersen, Shahrokhi, Steinhoff, Vakili.

Guest: Reddy

Meeting began at 10:06 am in Room H-111 with Schulz presiding.

A quorum was never present during the meeting.

1) Executive Committee – Schulz

The ExComm met the previous Wednesday to prepare the agenda for the present meeting. Also discussed were various concerns regarding the UTSI budget and faculty salaries.

It was determined that recent faculty salary increases at UTK were justified by increased tuition. Such increases for UTSI faculty could not be similarly justified because of the relatively small tuition income here. The state mandated 2% increase in January of 2003 was to be received by UTSI faculty.

2) Education – Pujol, Caruthers

Pujol reported that recruiting trips had been made to Bucknell, Penn State and Purdue. Application literature is being sent out to the students.

Caruthers announced new searches are being proposed for MAES and ECE faculty and that general faculty enhancement is underway.

A visit by President Shumaker is still in the planning stage. It was hoped to have him visit with the Support Council in December. No details are yet available on Shumaker's plans for UTSI.

Fred Tompkins at UTK has proposed starting a Computational Science and Engineering Program for UT.

3) Research – Muehlhauser

UT and Battelle will probably bid on the new AEDC Operating Contract with UT as a 10% partner. An official announcement was expected on November 29.

President Shumaker is proposing a Research Foundation for UT. The proposed foundation bylaws are available on the Web and comments should be submitted to the Faculty Senate by early 2003. Concern was expressed about the amount of contract overhead going to the foundation and the lack of UTSI representation on the foundation's board.

A grants workshop given by Lillian Mashburn from UT was to be held at UTSI the following Wednesday from 11am to 1 pm. An e-mail was to go out concerning the arrangements.

4) Library – Parigger

The Library Committee has pursued electronic access for UTSI faculty through academic channels with no apparent success. Crabtree agrees that UTSI faculty should have the same access as UTK faculty but no action has been taken. It was felt that a more successful outcome might be achieved through IT channels at UT.

5) Graduate Council – Smith

Students will be restricted to a maximum of 15 credit hours in non-degree status; exceptions in special cases can be made, however. The validity of many GRE scores from China, Korea and Hong Kong in 2001-2002 should be treated as questionable.

6) EPSCoR Proposal – Garrison

Garrison reviewed his is work on an NSF EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) proposal to provide infrastructure grants to states under represented in Federal R&D funding. This involves a \$9 M grant starting in July 2003 for Tennessee; a proposal for a planning grant of \$200K was due the following week. The proposal should deal with work in 1 to 3 major theme areas by a number of Tennessee universities. 50% cost sharing will be required and a significant value added measure is required.

7) COO Report – Caruthers

- Aviation Systems Faculty Search --- A search was reported to be underway for both a tenure-track and a research position. A good candidate, with interests in icing and human factors, had been interviewed for the research position. One candidate for the tenure-track position, with expertise in avionics, has also been interviewed. It was noted that additional tenure-track candidates should to be interviewed and that the hiring of the tenure-track faculty had not been approved at UTK. Merkle expressed the opinion that the entire faculty should be having a greater input into the faculty search process.
- Kraft/Prados Reports --- President Shumaker received the Kraft report before the last Board of Trustees meeting. It includes a business model for increasing the research level at UTSI in the next 5 years up to \$25 M. Shumaker is expected to take positive steps to utilize UTSI in his efforts improve UT's research capabilities.

8) New Business

Kimberlin indicated that UTSI may be “dying on the vine” unless new faculty are hired to replace those leaving and felt that it was the faculty’s responsibility to see that such hiring takes place. He also said that someone is needed at the VP level at UTSI so he/she can hire faculty independent of UTK.

Caruthers reported that the Support Council is being reconstituted. Dr. Bill Kimzey is the new chair of that group and the next meeting will take place the second week of December.

9) Announcements

Schulz encouraged the faculty to attend the UTSI Christmas party to be held the evening of December 5.

10) The meeting adjourned at 11:33 am

Respectfully submitted,
R. D. Joseph
Assembly Secretary
13 January 2003