

**Minutes of Faculty Assembly Meeting  
September 10, 2003**

Present: Basil Antar, John Caruthers, Horace Crater, Lloyd Davis, Gary Flandro, Max Hailey, Dennis Keefer, Ralph Kimberlin, Kenneth Kimble, Boris Kupershmidt, Joseph Majdalani, Trevor Moulden, Chris Parigger, Rich Ranaudo, K. C. Reddy, Roy Schulz, Monty Smith, Peter Solies, John Steinhoff, Bruce Whitehead, George Jensen

Absent: Bruce Bomar, Y. L. Chen, Garry Coleman, Narendra Dahotre, George Garrison, J. W. L. Lewis, Charles Merkle, Joel Muehlhauser, Al Pujol, Ahmad Vakili, student representative.

Meeting began at 10:10 A.M. A quorum was present.

1. Minutes: Minutes from the previous meetings held April 16, April 30, and July 9, 2003 were approved.

2. Administration:

Dr. Caruthers spoke about new faculty and faculty who have recently left UTSI.

He introduced Dr. Joseph Majdalani, who came to UTSI from Marquette University. Dr. Majdalani is the first to fill one of several new positions for which UTSI is conducting national searches. Dr. Majdalani has been appointed as a tenure track full professor of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering and as the second Jack D. Whitfield Professor of High Speed Flows.

Dr. Merkle has moved to Perdue. He will remain as research professor at UTSI on an “as needed” basis for contract research. He will provide his courses to UTSI from Perdue by distance education. Research faculty who had been associated with Dr. Merkle include Research Professor ..... (located in California) and Research Assistant Professor Dr. Ding Li. Dr. Caruthers said that these are R account people and will remain at UTSI as needed. The California project is still a project at UTSI. Ding Li will be teaching with us. Dr. Merkle had been H.H. Arnold Chair of Excellence in Computational Mechanics. The position will be filled again following advertisement and search, to be conducted by a search committee.

Dr. Roy Joseph has retired. Other faculty members who left last year are Dr. Shahrokhi, Dr. Bill Lewis and Mr. Fred Stellar.

Dr. Frank Collins is going on phased retirement and will be teaching instrumentation in Aviation Systems this fall, working approximately the maximum hours.

Dr. Davis mentioned two other faculty members, Dr. M. H. McCay and Dr. Dahotre.

Dr. Caruthers said Dr. M. H. McCay had moved to Florida Institute of Technology. [Her husband, Dr. D. McCay, a tenured UTSI faculty member and former UTSI Vice President, had also left the UT system for an appointment at FIT.] He remarked that no UTSI equipment went to Florida Tech. There was an effort to take a large part of the 2002-2003 LISI contract monies that had not been spent to FIT, but that didn't take place. Dr. Keefer is the new PI for the LISI project and Dr. Caruthers is pleased with Dr. Keefer's work and believes he will help us grow. The CLA/UTSI laboratory at Pellissippi Parkway in Knoxville has been closed and most equipment relocated to UTSI.

Dr. Dahotre works 25% UTSI, 25% UTK, 50% ORNL. Nanofabrication partnership with Heartland Nano Fabrication: The work will be done here.

In regard to the new faculty searches, Dr. Caruthers said there is no question that we can get quality applicants here. The people who doubted that UTSI could attract good applicants will be surprised at the caliber of applicants we have received.

In reply to a question about consultants hired by the UTSI administration, Dr. Caruthers said we had been using one consultant, Alex Money's company. He had helped arrange meetings with political figures such as Lincoln Davis, private meetings with politicians such as Bud Cramer, etc. He's helped establish a close relationship with Zach Wamp, and had been working on a project that could be important; however management at Battelle-Columbus and the UT change came about at the same time, which caused a problem. Alex had worked on putting hypersonics research here. Also, Van Hips was a lobbyist that Steve Leonard had gotten us connected with at no cost, on pro bono basis through UT Memphis. We were earmarked on HVEPS with the help of Lincoln Davis, as well as with USDA and the Energy Department with coal gasification. Losing him is unfortunate. Van Hips contract [with UT Memphis] will be cancelled. John Caruthers and Joe Johnson talked last week and Van had gotten support for us and was well connected. He had wanted to be the DOD representative with the UT System and work with Kurt Schlieter. We are fortunate in the relationship we have with Kurt Schlieter. He is working hard on our behalf and will be an asset to us if he stays in Washington.

Dr. Davis asked what the administration positions of Drs. Reddy and Pujol are, in order to be able to distinguish faculty from administration. Dr. Reddy, Acting Academic Dean, and is working part-time, limited to 800 hours.

Dr. Davis remarked that a question had been raised at the faculty executive committee meeting about whether we at UTSI have authority to make new faculty appointments. The question hinged on the exact role and title of Dr. Caruthers. Dr. Caruthers replied that his title is Associate Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He doesn't know if they still have him as a Dean at Knoxville. He stated that Dr. KC Reddy is the Acting Dean so he doesn't consider himself the Academic Dean. Right now, with the change of leadership at UT, it's not clear exactly to whom he [Dr. Caruthers] reports. Dr. Schumaker had given permission to open and fill positions. Dr. Caruthers thinks it would be a threat to UTSI if that were to be put under Knoxville's control. He doesn't expect that to happen. He has talked with Dr. Joe Johnson and Lincoln Davis and Lincoln wrote

a very supportive letter to Dr. Johnson last week. When we made the offer to Dr. Majdalani we did not go back through Knoxville. We exercised it as the permission Dr. Schumaker had given to open and fill positions. Also, Dr. Caruthers has e-mail from Steve Leonard in support of the decision to make the offer.

A discussion was held as to how UTSI appointments are made. Dr. Caruthers said we make the decisions here about who gets an offer. We don't have to go to UT Knoxville for approval. The appointments are made the same way they have been made for the past ten years. Dr. Reddy said we always seek Department Head approval.

Dr. Solies asked what Steve Leonard's role had been in UTSI's administration. Dr. Caruthers replied that he had consulted with Steve Leonard on a daily basis. He had influence but formerly no role at all. An example was in the Aviation Systems Program a candidate was located, he talked to Steve and Steve said we should not make an offer to a certain applicant. Dr. Caruthers had authority to make an offer, but with Steve Leonard's influence it was not wise to go against him.

Dr. Caruthers said the skills of Eli Fly as Executive Vice President are different than those of Steve Leonard. Mr. Fly is more financial and Steve Leonard had a lot of things going on within the University. Eli has no formal role as far as UTSI is concerned. Steve Leonard's assignment was to see UTSI was successful in its growth plan and was dedicated to that task.

### 3. Search Committee Report

Dr. Majdalani filled the position of Jack Whitfield Chair of Excellence.

Sr. Level Tenure track Plasma Physics

Jr. level in Plasma Physics

The search Committee has looked at candidates. Dr. Keefer said they went through the applications. We have received 6 applicants and have eliminated 5 of them. We are currently investigating one candidate. In the Junior level, we have had 10 applicants and have reduced it to 4. We plan to send a questionnaire to expand on their resumes, particularly in their research contracts. Dr. Reddy stated there is no deadline if we don't find a strong candidate.

In the Junior level opening in propulsion, we are still waiting for a good candidate. Dr. Steinhoff said Dr. Merkle was looking for a non tenure position for Ding Li but we have not had any good candidates yet. Dr. Davis asked if we could widen the search.

In the Aviation Systems, they had five applicants and have cut it down to two. They will make a decision in mid-October. Dr. Solies said one of the candidates who applied had experience in Radar. Can we expand on that search?

### 4. Research issues

Dr. Whitehead asked if HVEPS got earmarked. Dr. Caruthers said it had not. He said it started with 6 white papers, went through internal process, put four to Federal Relations Council and they cut it down to two. Those selected were based on probability of success and our capability. The two were HVEPS and Prometheus. We thought we would get Senate support but no support for either. No UT-wide markup. Lincoln Davis helped get \$4.5 on the House side, subcontracting to General Atomics. The markup on this is year by year. We ended up with \$4.5 million on House side going to Senate leadership in Conference Committee. Last report looks good for getting mark up, but no markup for Prometheus. The language was that Prometheus was good but need to be competitive.

The VA Hud Conference Committee is only new committee. Lincoln Davis has said Prometheus is number one priority. John Caruthers said we have a good friend in Lincoln Davis and they are trying to get into conference committee to get it earmarked in next few years and with Lincoln Davis help we will get it through.

We got a late start last year on getting the faculty to write white papers. We need to start now for the next round for earmarks. Those projects that have agency support we tried to push coal gasification last year but that wasn't pushed forward.

#### 5. Finance

Dr. Jensen met with Budget Council of Faculty Committee

Dr. Smith passed out Pie charts showing total revenues explaining the contracts and grants expenditures. The biggest difference is we have been paid off all bad debt.

Dr. Jensen said you should have received a Fall semester planned effort distribution form. These need to be completed so contracts may be billed properly. If you have questions, please let him know. Funds should be in faculty members accounts by end of the week. He said there is \$15,000 in travel money and we will use the same process as last year.

He said Short Courses were the same as in the past - 10% for first short course, 15% for second Short Course, 20% for third short course and 30% for all courses over three with a minimum of \$500 per short course

## 6. Distance education:

Dr. Davis asked about accounts that were frozen. Dr. Jensen stated there were no carryovers.

Dr. Caruthers said our financial posture has improved.

Dr. Jensen said our last debts were paid off. The only debt we have are the ones we have trying to collect on contracts. We are now in a debt-free position.

Dr. Steinhoff wanted to know if we should show this in the local news by using charts showing our progress, but Drs. Jensen and Caruthers thought it best that we not brag just yet. Dr. Caruthers said our financial position has already been recognized with the UT system. Eli has commented to Dr. Caruthers about our good financial position.

Dr. Reddy said the system is bogged down and we cannot get information on our student population yet. We have 37 full-time and 34 GRA's and 3 full time from the Canadian Army, etc. Last year we had 41. AEDC numbers are down. Last year we had 25 and this year we have 24. Engineering Management numbers \_\_\_\_\_. Aviation systems - more than last year by end of month.

Full time students depend on funding. There were 20-22 institute funded full time offers made late last year. This year we hope to improve, but we have had problems. We plan to double our Engineering Management students in the next few years.

UT Board of Trustees – copy was passed out. Tenure will go into handbook eventually.

Dr. Davis asked for a list of students at next meeting and Dr. Reddy agreed to have a list ready.

Dr. Pujol was not present so we moved on to other business.

## 7. Other Business:

Dr. Whitehead stated that UT Ed Tech is focused on technology, not classes.

Dr. Davis mentioned the Faculty Caucus Meeting and the involvement of the faculty and operation of the institute. He asked Dr. Caruthers to provide a list of initiatives and at what level.

Dr. Parigger asked if policies are still in place since Steve Leonard is gone, and if so, to what extent are they in place.

Dr Caruthers stated that he and Dr. Lloyd Davis had talked at length at the picnic. One of the things they talked about was improving communication with faculty and that is a goal. Dr. Caruthers is working with Dr. Davis to do that.

Concerning faculty accountability, Dr. Caruthers said he tried to get input about new standards in the January 27<sup>th</sup> faculty meeting, discussing new plan, requested inputs from faculty. The first attempt was not successful. Dr. Caruthers read from the January 27<sup>th</sup> faculty minutes.

Dr. Parigger asked was the Steve Leonard plan “good as gold”

Dr. Davis remarked that Dr. Caruthers is giving a history .

Dr. Caruthers then continued by saying on February 14<sup>th</sup> he contacted Dr. Roy Schulz, Faculty Assembly President, asking if there has been any proposal and requesting faculty input. Roy said he had received no response from the faculty. Dr. Caruthers asked Dr. Reddy to convene the education committee, but no suggestions after that effort. Some time in March, Dr. Caruthers put out a strawman to formalize performance standards.

There were standards adopted by faculty and the Goethert standards, so he put a standard between the two as a strawman. There were holes – it was not perfect, but he got some response from Drs. Merkle and Whitehead. Dr. Caruthers said he incorporated to a great extent the rest of the comments and the faculty comments were “ we need time to study it”. There was no response either the first or second week, and a couple of months passed.

Committee process had representation in Dr. Merkle, Ed Kraft and Bruce Bomar. We had only two meetings. Ed wrote a report. Dr. Caruthers stated he advised Ed he needed to meet with the faculty but he never did. He had discussion with Chuck Merkle and tried to report to you. The Interim committee report approved and it was harsh. Final was also harsh.

There was Loren Crabtree and his influence and our own Support Council had a lot of concern.

Dr Davis need to change faculty accountability to made clear by Steve Leonard and others.

Dr. Caruthers said this had to be on minds of Jerry Cooper and John Greeter. He stated that John Greeter was angry

Dr. Caruthers said he wanted to wrap up what he had begun. The standards set as long term plan have nothing to do with Steve Leonard. Administration is open to suggestions to improve

External funding  
Include distant student population  
Engineering Management  
Aviation Systems

And funding would count. There has to be some funding accountability or we can't make it. Dr. Caruthers said he is very encouraged by proposals by a couple of faculty members. Garry Coleman – Tennessee Human Capital on Engineering Management, \$1 M in resources over two years and are willing to invest. two years and

Dr. Ahmad Vakili is working on a Pitch-based Fiber relationship with Conoco-Phillips. Dr. Caruthers has traveled with Dr. Vakili to Oklahoma and is doing all he can to help. We have not been able to get business development offer here yet. Once we land projects it will make a better environment for faculty.

8. Faculty Accountability Discussion: A special meeting on faculty governance accountability was discussed with details to be worked out by the Executive Committee. Dr. Kimberlin made a motion that a separate meeting to address this issue be scheduled since the hour was getting late.

Motion carried to that effect.

Dr. Davis wants to know when to schedule the discussion on faculty accountability. Since he will be gone the greater part of September, he the faculty to take it up on Wednesday in about two weeks. It is not to take place in front of student representative but Administration should be here. Dr. Caruthers said he would have to check with his schedule to see if he's available in two weeks.

Adjourned at 12:00

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