

Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting January 19, 2005

Faculty members present: John Caruthers, Horace Crater, Lloyd Davis, Chris Parigger, Al Pujol, K. C. Reddy, Atul Sheth, Bruce Whitehead, Kenneth Kimble, Trevor Moulden, Joel Muehlhauser, Monty Smith, Rich Ranaudo, John Steinhoff, Max Hailey, Boris Kupershmidt, Roy Schulz, J. W. L. Lewis, Bruce Bomar

Faculty not present: Basil Antar, Ralph Kimberlin, Peter Solies, Gary Flandro, George Garrison, Joseph Majdalani, Narendra Dahotre, Y. L. Chen, Trevor Moeller, Ahmad Vakili.

The faculty meeting was called to order at 10:10 A.M.

The minutes from the 11/17/04 meeting were approved

Most of the time was spent with the faculty present exchanging information and thoughts with Dr. Caruthers about the New UTSI Plan.

Below are a number of comments made in regards to the plan and the new material science specialty

Dr. Caruthers told us that Bill Hofmeister (a non tenured research professor at Vanderbilt in material science) is being made an offer which would entail his being at UTSI 50% of his time. He will be a part of CLA and ultimately have 2 students here. Dr. Davis expressed opposition to the appointment without a more thorough commitment to UTSI since it is understood that he will be on contract from Vanderbilt to UTSI and not based here as would a full time professor or research professor.

Dr. Whitehead asked the question do we need a new degree program or a lesser modification of existing program

Dr. Crater noted that Dr. Petersen's written document appeared to make a distinction between the 10 point plan and background information on the previous plan and recommendations from the consultant Dr. Skip Fletcher. The 10 point plan appears to allow for the continuation of degree programs that ultimately would report to the A&S Dean while the recommendations of Dr. Fletcher (included in the report) stated that the A&S degree programs here should be phased out.

Dr. Steinhoff recommended a new consultant or a panel of experts to provide a better basis for a plan for UTSI..

The question was raised why "Ear Marks" from the federal government should be downplayed. Dr. Schulz noted that Dr. Petersen's feelings on these was similar to views expressed earlier by Dr. Joe Johnson. Dr. Caruthers pointed out that although "Ear Marks" are not mentioned in the 10 point plan it will be harder to obtain them without UT administrative cooperation.

Dr. Reddy expressed the view that our standard degree programs be kept but that they be framed in such a way that the new interdisciplinary focus areas be enhanced.

It was stressed that the July 2005 deadline requires that we come up with a curriculum plan that shows progress toward supporting the two focus areas.

Dr. Sheth suggested that we look at programs that already exist at other universities for ideas on the curricula.

Dr. Kimble pointed out the need for occasional math MS majors and Dr. Caruthers agreed with this idea. (It was brought up in the context of student recruitment in regards to programs other than the two focus areas).

Horace Crater
Faculty Assembly Secretary