

**Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting
September 6, 2006**

Faculty members present: Chris Parigger, Horace Crater, Trevor Moulden, Lloyd Davis, Atul Sheth, Peter Solies, Bruce Whitehead, Joel Muehlhauser, Stephen Corda, Basil Antar, Al Pujol, Gary Flandro, Ahmad Vakili, Greg Sedrick, Bill Hofmeister

Faculty not present Rich Ranaudo, Joseph Majdalani, Narendra Dahotre, Y. L. Chen, John Steinhoff, Boris Kupersmidt, Monty Smith, Trevor Moeller, Roy Schulz, Bruce Bomar

Faculty Meetings will commence in future promptly at 10:00.

Dates of future meetings Oct. 11, 2006, Nov. 15, 2006, Jan. 17, 2007, Feb. 28, 2007, April 11, 2007.

Meeting was called to order at 10:05

1) Minutes from 4/12/06 meeting were approved

2) Reports from the Administration

a) Dr. Don Daniel - Eight faculty positions to be announced soon. Three will be in propulsion related areas, three in materials science related areas. Two will be tenure track, and the others may have the possibility of being converted to tenure track based on performance. .. Dr. K.C. Reddy, our acting academic dean has retired. (This semester he will be working on report to UTK administration on our progress on revitalization plan.) On an interim basis Dr. Daniel will take up some of his responsibilities. This will include once a month meetings with program chairs... Dr. Joel Muehlhauser, our assistant VP for research, will be retiring at the end of this year. Replacement will be advertised for soon.... Plans are to bring in one high profile research oriented visitor/month...

b) Dr. Joel Muehlhauser- The important expenditure numbers for research dollars have improved (from \$2,500,000 in 05 to \$3,900,000 in 06). This meets or exceeds the goals put out by our revitalization plan.

3) Old Business

a) - Faculty By-Laws (Dr. Whitehead) – A completed document is to be prepared by the Faculty By-Laws Committee for modification and approval. We as a separate UT unit are to have our own by-laws but it is required that they be congruent with those of the corresponding colleges and departments.

b) - Material Science Curricula – The committee that was formed to create this committee will meet and report on a new curricula for students specializing in this new area. (Dr.

Shultz is the chairman). Dr. Hofmeister noted that the program will be under the Department of Material Sciences and Engineering as it has the needed flexibility.

4) New Business

a) Distance Learning- Dr. Sedrick –Can video taped lectures be downloaded by students? This question will be addressed and reported on at the next faculty meeting.

b) Mathematics – Dr. Crater – Concern was express over four issues that relate to the mathematical readiness and maturity of our students as they pursue their research. a) Kimble’s retirement could mean that a number of math courses offered in the past will either not be offered or taken up by other faculty. b) The majority of our work (and thus of our students) involves one form or another of applied mathematics c) It has been observed that many of the incoming students are displaying increasing weaknesses in basic mathematics (Calculus, algebra, and trigonometry). d) Math 517 has no students signed up...Related to this latter is that mathematics is no longer a required part of the Ph.D engineering exams...These concerns will be addressed by the program chairs in meetings with Dr. Daniel. Dr. Daniel reported that he has had discussions with the UTK math dept. head (Dr. Frasier) about the possibility of offering some math courses by distant ed.

c) Ph.D Committees - Dr. Flandro expressed concern that students are having a difficult time finding the required number of faculty to serve on their Ph.D committees.