

**Approved Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting**  
February 18, 2009

Members present: Whitehead, Davis, Johnson, Yue, Vakili, Parigger, Murray, Moeller, Smith, Corda, Solies, Hofmeister, Jackson, Sedrick, Antar, Crater, Pujol, Martos, Steinhoff, and Majdalani.

Members not present: Morton, Flandro, Solies, Ranaudo, Chen, Kupersmidt, Moulden, Bukley, and Bomar.

1) The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM in H-111. A quorum was established.

2) The minutes from the November 12, 2008 meeting were voted on and approved.

3) Report from the Dean for Academic Affairs – G. Sedrick.

Dr. Sedrick discussed the meeting that was held with UT Exec VP Dr. David Millhorn in light of the set of faculty Evaluations received for the UT senior administration. Particularly, as a follow-up on the Evaluations compiled for Dr. Bukley, UTSI's Interim Chief Administrator, Dr. Sedrick presented a request from Dr. Millhorn to gather additional feedback pertaining to a fundamental question that all faculty are strongly encouraged to participate in. The question is:

*“What actionable items can the Administration take for UTSI to realize its full potential?”*

Dr. Sedrick urged the faculty in attendance to participate in this survey and encouraged them to focus their response on the particular actions that could be taken to help the Institute reach its desirable objectives. Dr. Sedrick also explained the method by which he intends to collect this information to ensure that anonymity of participants is secured. In this second round of evaluations, Dr. Sedrick advised the faculty to refrain from the use of names of individuals, and to avoid statements that could be construed as personal. He further emphasized the need to act promptly on this request as the comments are to be collected by the following Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

4) Report from the Faculty Assembly President – J. Steinhoff

Dr. Steinhoff discussed the status of UTSI's budget cuts and the concerns received from different sources regarding the disproportionate allocation of funds to administrative overhead.

5) Comments from the VP for Research – A. Vakili

Dr. Vakili talked about ITAR restrictions and the ability to perform restricted work.

6) Comments from the CLA Director – Dr. Hofmeister

Dr. Hofmeister discussed the opportunity to conduct research in Wind Energy and to form a Wind Energy Group at UTSI. Interested individuals were asked to contact him.

7) Motion to elect Dr. Bomar as a Senate Alternate

Dr. Smith reported on UTSI's senate representation at UTK and the need to vote on Dr. Bomar's nomination for the alternate position. The present senators are:

- Hofmeister (2009)
- Smith (2010).

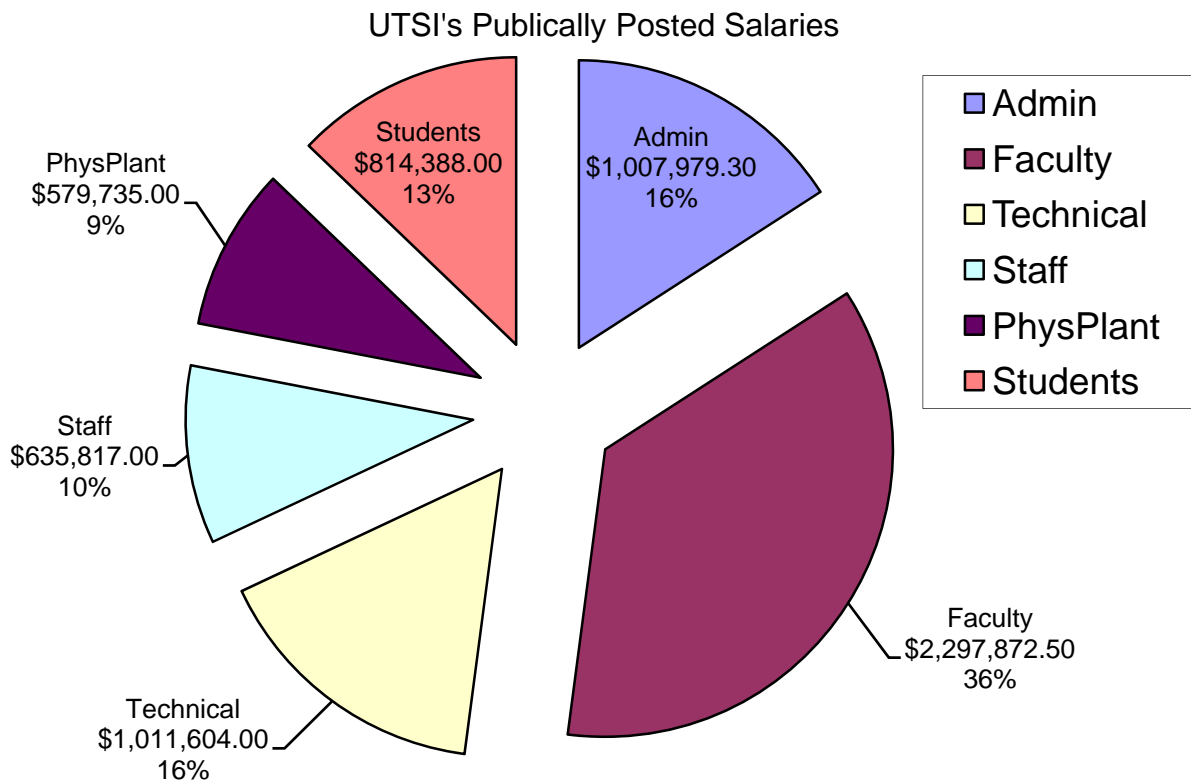
A motion to elect Dr. Bomar as a Senate Alternate passed unanimously.

8) IT Assignments/new organizational chart – Dr. Parigger

Dr. Parigger discussed the pitfalls of recent changes in the organizational chart. Among them is the placement of IT under the purview of the business office.

9) Direction of budget cuts

Dr. Majdalani expressed several concerns brought to his attention by faculty members regarding the direction of budget cuts. Based on publically available data on UTSI salaries, the perception that approximately 70% of UTSI’s budget is used to offset faculty salaries appears to be incorrect. Actual data seems to indicate that approximately 25% of salaries are for 9-months tenure and tenure-track faculty, 10% for research, and 1% for adjunct appointments. Dr. Davis joined Dr. Majdalani in confirming this information and provided further clarifications. Should these numbers be true, then the need to increase the number of faculty and students and reduce the number of administrators appears to be fully justified.



The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joe Majdalani