

## **Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting**

11-Nov-09, H-111

Approved 17-Feb-2010

**Members Present:** Corda, Solies, Pujol, Smith, Sedrick, Johnson, Murray, Yue, Antar, Majdalani, Moeller, Steinhoff, Vakili, Crater, Davis, Parigger, McMinn. Guest: Andrew Wilson.

**Members Not Present:** Muratore, Ranaudo, Jackson, Hofmeister, Kupersmidt, Moulden, Chen.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:13 AM CST. A quorum was established.
2. The minutes from the 23-Sep-09 Faculty Assembly meeting were approved.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Executive Committee. Dr. Parigger briefly reported on a meeting between the faculty and administration on October 14<sup>th</sup> discussing new faculty hirings, a discussion with Dr. Wayne Davis concerning faculty evaluations, and that he had not attended any senior staff meetings since the last Faculty Assembly meetings due to cancellations.
  - b. Research and Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Majdalani reported that the committee had met four times concerning three issues: (i) the direction of faculty searches (search committees have been formed for 3 tenure-track and 2 non-tenure positions), (ii) the new Controlled Technology Plan for UTSI (a sub-committee consisting of Drs. Steinhoff and Hofmeister has been formed to study this further), and (iii) new guidelines and policies concerning travel (meetings with Dr. Vakili are underway). Further information can be found in the Attachments.
  - c. Student Affairs Committee. Dr. A. Pujol reported that the committee met last week and will meet next week to continue discussion of student recruitment issues. At this point, Mr. Andrew Wilson, President of the UTSI Student Government Association read a prepared statement concerning student issues.
4. Administrative Reports
  - a. Chief Operating Officer. Dr. S. Corda reported that funds for faculty overhead recovery and incentive accounts have been restored, and that the policy will be reinstated for FY 2010. The administration is looking into restoring such funds retroactive to FY 2009. Employees will receive no pay raises this year. The search for the Whitfield Professor Chair will open soon. ARRA funds will be spent to restore the large vacuum chamber (\$157,000) and instrumentation for the wind tunnel (\$30,000). The budget is tight, and the possibility exists that it may be cut this year. The UT administration has decided that the search for the next COO will go external. UTSI has approval to hire non-tenure-track faculty, but tenure-track positions have been put on hold.
  - b. Academic Affairs. Dr. G. Sedrick reported that the UTSI student enrollment (14<sup>th</sup>-day fall semester headcount) for this AY fell short of the goal set by the Revitalization Plan. 39 students will graduate this semester. He also provided a breakdown of GRA funding, overtime students, and announced that students are

being polled on their sources of support in preparation for setting the future budget.

- c. Office of Research. Dr. A. Vakili reported that according to COEUS records, UTSI submitted 17 proposals for a total funding of \$25,985,830 (not including the UTK/UTSI DOE Wind Energy proposal for \$64,313,610). Of these, 12 proposals to date have been funded for a total award of \$1,648,521; and one pre-proposal for \$18,499,921 has been returned.
  - d. Institutional Support. Mr. W. McMinn reported on campus equipment maintenance (the CLA HVAC chiller replacement), capital maintenance (utility power to the Propulsion Research Facility has been restored), a Jacobs Corporation donation (dormitory improvements), the new telephone system, and HR announcements for November and December.
5. Old Business
- a. Election of UTSI representative to the UTK COE Promotion and Tenure Committee. Dr. Sedrick nominated Dr. Majdalani, and was seconded by Dr. Crater. Dr. Vakili nominated Dr. Antar, and was seconded by Dr. Sedrick. The final vote of the College of Engineering faculty at UTSI present at the meeting was 6 for Dr. Antar, 3 for Dr. Majdalani, with 2 abstentions/write-ins.
6. New Business
- a. Evaluation of Administration. The Executive Committee recommended forming an ad hoc committee and using the College of Arts and Sciences form. Dr. Antar moved to use the College of Engineering form, and was seconded by Dr. Majdalani. The final vote was 2 in favor, 1 opposed.
  - b. Bylaws for UTSI Faculty Assembly. Dr. Parigger asked that the Bylaws Committee look into updating the Faculty Assembly Bylaws.
  - c. Procedures for Research Grants & Contracts Applications. It was pointed out that forms for export control are available at <http://research.utk.edu/forms>.
  - d. UTSI Input to Faculty Evaluations. A consensus seemed to exist among the members remaining that UTSI faculty want input from UTSI in their faculty evaluations and planning activities.
7. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM CST.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. Montgomery Smith