

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

17 February 2010, H-111

Approved 07-April-2010

**Members Present:** Muratore, Smith, Sedrick, Hofmeister, Antar, Majdalani, Steinhoff, Vakili, Crater, Davis, Parigger, McMinn, Moore. Student Representative: Benjamin Klamm.

**Members Not Present:** Corda, Solies, Pujol, Jackson, Johnson, Murray, Yue, Kupershmidt, Moeller, Moulden, Chen.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM. A quorum was established.
2. Dr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the 11-Nov-09 Faculty Assembly meeting; Dr. Sedrick seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Executive Committee. Dr. Parigger initiated business by welcoming Dr. Robert “Buddy” Moore as UTSI’s new Executive Director.
  - b. Bylaws Committee. Dr. Davis provided a background to the need for updated Faculty Assembly bylaws (informally termed an “identity crisis”), and pointed out the final paragraph of the proposed bylaws stating that it is an interim working document. The final draft of the bylaws should be available for voting at the next meeting.
  - c. Faculty Affairs Committee. Dr. Hofmeister reported that the committee had examined a complaint filed by a faculty member, had found grounds for the grievance, and recommended that the issue be referred to the proper authority. After some discussion, it was recommended that it would be taken next to Dr. Moore, then, if necessary, to the Ombudsperson, before trying the Faculty Affairs Committee of the UTK Faculty Senate.
  - d. Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Majdalani reported that the committee met with Dr. Vakili to discuss the formation of a UT Research Institute, and that Dr. Vakili will make a presentation on that concept to the entire Institute later. They also met with Dr. Moore to discuss research and GRA enrollment.
  - e. Student Affairs Committee. Dr. Sedrick read the minutes of a meeting on the committee on 12-Feb-2010. Those minutes are attached.
  - f. Fellowship Selection Committee. Dr. Majdalani reported that the committee is looking into new fellowship offers, and that an announcement for nominations for the Outstanding GRA Award will be forthcoming.
  - g. Budget Committee. Dr. Steinhoff asked that Dr. Davis be selected to chair this committee.
4. Administrative Reports
  - a. R. Moore, Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Moore began by saying that he has never been challenged as much as in his current position, and that he is being very deliberate in his actions. He stated that he is not here to shut down UTSI, but to coordinate with UTK and kickstart improvement in research and education. Administrative reorganization will come, but he has asked the current Administration to stay in place for the next 6 months. He is trying to get local

input to faculty evaluations. The faculty hirings of last fall got “tangled up,” but he is working on that. He expressed concern about graduate students, their stipends, and would like to get outside speakers for seminars. He is also planning on issuing an internal RFP for an invited speaker course for the fall and spring.

- b. G. Sedrick, Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Sedrick presented data on student enrollment, and stated that we have 17 GRA’s, up 2 from the fall. He also mentioned an MOU with MTSU for the FTE program, a combination undergraduate/graduate program in EM with TSU, a letter of intent for a Systems Engineering program, the DE room in Kingsport, efforts to increase the Continuing Education program, developments in the UTSI Library, the new student database BANNER, and that student course evaluations will now be done by UTK.
  - c. A. Vakili, Office of Research. Dr. Vakili reported that since 31-Jul-2009, UTSI has submitted 31 proposals, and that 20 of these have been funded for a total of \$2.2M. We are through 63% of the fiscal year and have 77% of last fiscal year’s funding.
  - d. W. McMinn, Institutional Support. Mr. McMinn reminded the Assembly that PEGS forms are due 19-Feb-2010 and that the tagged equipment inventory is underway. He reported that a capital maintenance request has passed the governor, but has yet to pass the legislature, and that the third installment of the Jacobs Corporation donation is being used to upgrade the dormitory kitchenettes.
5. Old Business. All old business items were addressed in prior items.
6. New Business
- a. Election of UTSI Representative to the UTK Faculty Senate. By written secret ballot, Dr. Sedrick was elected to replace Dr. Smith as UTSI representative to the UTK Faculty Senate for 2010-2013. Dr. Sedrick then nominated Dr. Hofmeister as Alternate, Dr. Antar seconded, and he was approved by acclamation.
  - b. Recommendation for Professor Emeritus. Dr. Crater moved that Dr. Kenneth Kimble be recommended by the UTSI Faculty Assembly to be granted the title of Professor Emeritus. Dr. Sedrick amended the motion to include Dr. Bruce Bomar. Dr. Majdalani seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
  - c. Future of Interdisciplinary Research at UTSI. Dr. Parigger commented that numbers of faculty members in various programs need to grow in line with Dr. Moore’s indication of his commitment to UTSI’s growth.
7. Other
- a. Dr. Hofmeister gave a “tip of the hat” to the UTSI Administration for assisting the Tullahoma Hands-On Science Center with the NASA Fireball Meteor Tracking Center.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. Montgomery Smith