

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

10-November-2010, 10:00 AM, H-111

Approved 16-February-2011

**Members Present:** Solies, Pujol, Smith, Sedrick, Costa, Hofmeister, J. Johnson, Murray, Yue, Moeller, Steinhoff, Vakili, Crater, Parigger, Moore, C. Johnson, M. Akiki.

**Members Not Present:** Corda, Muratore, Antar, Majdalani, Chen, Davis.

1. A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 10:03 AM.
2. Minutes from the 22-Sep-10 Faculty Assembly Meeting were approved by voice vote. Dr. Hofmeister introduced Dr. Lino Costa, the newest member of the Assembly.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Executive Committee. Dr. Solies stated that the Executive Committee had met and formed the agenda for this meeting.
  - b. Bylaws Committee. Dr. Smith reported that the Bylaws Committee had met, elected Dr. Antar chairman, discussed the issue of Institute and Faculty Assembly Bylaws, and had obtained the latest version of the proposed new Assembly Bylaws from Dr. Davis.
  - c. Research Committee. Dr. Parigger reported that the Research Committee had met 3 times, and that he had been elected chairman. Items that had been addressed in these meetings included faculty searches, especially the Materials Science/Physics position, Dr. Steinhoff's proposal that funds be designated for the purchase of books for research purposes, and a major equipment proposal. Dr. Steinhoff moved that UTSI have a fund for research books. The motion passed by voice vote.
  - d. Library Committee. Dr. Sedrick pointed out that some funds are now available in the library budget for the purchase of books.
  - e. Graduate Council. Dr. Parigger reported on the issues being addressed by the UTK Graduate Council, among them the new CIRE PhD degree program, and the push for the Top 25.
  - f. Student Affairs. Dr. Pujol reported that the Student Affairs Committee had met, discussed their bylaws and the need for 2 student representatives to the committee, and a student representative to the Faculty Assembly. (Mr. Akiki was selected as the student representative and was present at the meeting.) One key issue that was discussed was which courses are most important to the students, and the problem with courses being offered, but cancelled at the beginning of the semester.
  - g. Faculty Senate. Dr. Hofmeister reported on the issues addressed by the UTK Faculty Senate, including money for reinvestment in classrooms, the TUFs resolution, the CIRE program, and the Task Force on Civility. More information is available on the Senate Web site.
4. Administrative Reports
  - a. Chief Operating Officer and Director of Office of Research. Dr. Moore reported on numerous issues, including President Joe DiPietro's visit to UTSI, the re-

dedication of the Goethert Garden, the re-activation of the UTSI Community Support Council, and the budget and financial bookkeeping reorganization. He stated that three searches for MABE faculty were started: two are in process and advertised, and one is under review in Knoxville. Also, an “emergency situation” exists with respect to replacing Dr. Jackson in the EM program, and that is being pushed through the IE department in Knoxville.

- b. Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Charles Johnson said that he had met with department heads at UTK. He reiterated the problem with courses being offered and then cancelled, noting that we often did not have a good match between the course announcement and actual offerings. In the discussion that ensued, most faculty agreed that each student should have an academic plan for his/her program of study.
5. Old Business
    - a. MABE Qualifying Exams. Dr. C. Johnson said that he had discussed this issue with the department in Knoxville.
    - b. Entrance Hall Beautification Committee. Dr. Moore noted that such a committee already existed, chaired by Mr. Van Zandbergen, and that it had met just before this meeting.
    - c. Faculty Emeritus Status. Dr. Moore said that he was not sure how this process goes. Dr. Sedrick stated that Drs. Bomar and Kimble had been approved as UTSI Faculty Emeritus. Later, Dr. Sedrick moved that the Assembly clarify that it recommends Professor Emeritus at UTSI status for Drs. Jackson, Kupersmidt and Moulden. The motion passed by voice vote with one stated abstention.
  6. New Business
    - a. Interdisciplinary Opportunities in the Near Future. Dr. Hofmeister began the discussion by saying that UTSI needs an interdisciplinary program and asking how and can we float one? A discussion of the possibilities ensued.
    - b. Status of Commercial Business Presence at UTSI. Dr. Moore noted that commercial business presence at UTSI is nothing new and that he felt it was needed to get some activity here. Room was being made by moving people into previously unoccupied A-Wing. Caution about SBIR’s was mentioned.
  7. Other
    - a. Dr. Crater asked about the new Materials Science/Physics faculty position. Dr. Moore said that the Materials Science department head was not interested in a presence at UTSI, but that this may change with a new department head in February 2011.
    - b. Dr. Vakili announced that a seminar on computational methods was taking place that afternoon and urged member to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. Montgomery Smith  
Secretary