

Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting

06-April-2011, 10:00 AM, H-111

Approved 28-September-2011

Members Present: Solies, Pujol, Smith, Costa, Yue, Antar, Majdalani, Moeller, Vakili, Moore, C. Johnson, M. Akiki

Members Not Present: Corda, Muratore, Sedrick, Hofmeister, J. Johnson, Murray, Steinhoff, Chen, Crater, Davis, Parigger

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM. A quorum was never established.
2. Administrative Reports.
 - a. Chief Operating Officer and Director of Office of Research. Dr. Moore reported that the research picture at UTSI is “dismal,” due in large part to low proposal submissions. He noted that the incentive program is gone, and that he would like to see it reinstated. The College of Engineering is looking at such a program based upon F & A recoveries. Four faculty searches are in progress: 3 in MABE, 1 in EM. The budget numbers are in, and no more stimulus money will be available after June 30, 2011. Cuts are “not nearly as bad” as first thought: approximately \$79K. Most of this cut will be made up in the summer program, which will be like that in Knoxville. He concluded by emphasizing that we need more contracts and grants, and that we need to put some real thought into the services we provide. He noted the burden on our financial staff.
 - b. Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Charles Johnson mentioned a course on The Art of Mentoring PhD Students, and that it could be offered at UTSI if there’s enough interest. Response was positive.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee. Dr. Solies stated that the Executive Committee had met and formed the agenda for this meeting, and had discussed an alternate structure for the Faculty Assembly.

A report from the following committees written by Dr. Parigger was distributed.
 - b. Research Committee. The Research Committee meeting on Mar 22 was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
 - c. Graduate Council. The Graduate Council discussed the enrollment policy for doctoral dissertation at its April 7 meeting
 - d. Faculty Senate. At the Mar 7 meeting, the UTK Faculty Senate endorsed a no guns on campus policy, an antidiscrimination policy, and opposition to Tennessee House and Senate bills concerning the teaching of scientific topics. Chancellor Cheek introduced the new funding formula based upon performance. At the April 4 meeting, items of interest included salary increases and a civility policy.
 - e. Student Affairs. Dr. Pujol reported that the Student Affairs Committee will meet on April 8, and a new student president will be elected then.
4. Elections
 - a. Since a quorum did not exist, no elections were conducted at the meeting. Dr. Vakili reported that the Nominations Committee had one candidate for President-

Elect: Dr. Lloyd Davis, one candidate for Secretary: Dr. Monty Smith, and two candidates for Member-at-Large: Drs. Trevor Moeller and Dr. Greg Sedrick. It was suggested that the election be conducted electronically.

5. New Business

- a. In the absence of a quorum, the floor was opened to discussion. Items brought up included a smaller-scale structure for the Faculty Assembly, the bylaws for the Institute and the Assembly, and the conduction of elections for the Executive Committee and other standing committees (i.e., to be conducted in that order). Dr. Moore commented on plans for UT ASSET (Advanced Scientific Support for Engineering and Technology), and that it would be patterned after a similar institute in Social Studies with an emphasis on research, not academia, and be open to the UT System state-wide. Discussion also extended to the faculty searches in progress, and details of new hires.

6. Other

- a. Dr. Majdalani announced that Georges Akiki had won first place in the Masters Division at the 2011 Southeastern Regional Student Conference of the AIAA and was advancing to the international competition.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Montgomery Smith
Secretary