Members Present: Abedi, Anusonti-Inthra, Brooks, Costa, Davis, C. Johnson, J. Johnson, Moore, Parigger, Simonton, Solies, Surmick (Student representative), Tolk, Yu, Yue, Zhang.

Members Not Present: Crater, Chen, Hofmeister, Moeller, Schmisseur, Vakili.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM with a quorum present.

2. Report from UTSI Executive Director, Dr. Moore:
Dr. Moore informed the Faculty Assembly about various changes in the Budget and Finance office, as well as in ARAS.

3. Approval of Minutes:
Minutes of the 05-November-2014 Faculty Assembly meeting were approved unanimously. (Solies moved, Tolk seconded.)

4. Committee reports:
• Report from Executive Committee, J. Johnson:
J. Johnson summarized the election results for the Executive Committee for AY 2015-2016.

• Report from Education Committee, Dr. Moore:
Dr. Moore informed that the Education Committee discussed several proposals regarding the establishment of a “Director Series” of Seminars to start in the coming AY, as well as a Student Symposium.

• Report from Bylaws Committee, Parigger:
Parigger presented a revision of the UTSI Faculty Assembly Bylaws. After discussion, the presented revision (namely Revision 3) was put to vote as working document. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor, 3 votes against, and 2 abstentions. J. Johnson, Simonton and Tolk noted the need to continue efforts to update the UTSI FA Bylaws and volunteered to serve on the Bylaws Committee during the new AY.

5. Report from UTSI representative to UTK Faculty Senate, Research Council, Centers Review Committee, and Graduate Policy Committee, Parigger:
Parigger reported on two Faculty Senate meetings. Concerning the February 2, 2015, meeting, the FA was informed about concerns regarding the proportionality of Tenure track and Non-tenure track faculty in the Senate, and discussions on state residency guidelines. As to the March 2, 2015, meeting, Parigger highlighted current efforts to automate the Faculty evaluation process with the aid of ELEMENTS. Parigger also noted that UTSI has no representation on the Faculty Council. Minutes of Faculty Senate
meetings can be found at http://senate.utk.edu/archives/senate-reports-minutes-publications-2014-2015/.

Parigger also reported on two Research Council meetings. During the March 11, 2015, meeting, the Office of Corporate and Foundation Engagement (OCFE) was presented as an interface for companies and foundations seeking access to university resources. Parigger informed that the SARIF GRA Committee was formed, SARIF being the Summer Graduate Research Assistantship Fund. At the January 14, 2015, meeting, aspects of NIH funding at UTK were presented by Janet Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Development. Minutes of Research Council meetings can be found at http://web.utk.edu/~senate/rc/minutes/.

Report from UTSI representative to UTK Faculty Senate, Nominations & Appointments Committee, and Library & Information Technology Committee, J. Johnson: J. Johnson informed the FA that this Committee had met and discussed the various problems with ELEMENTS.

UTSI representative to UT Knoxville Graduate Council and Academic Policy Committee, Zhang: Zhang communicated, on the behalf of Anusonti-Inthra, that the Academic Policy Committee approved a recommendation for graduate school to change the grading system from current (A, B+, B, C+, C, D, F) to (A, A-, B+, B, C+, C, C-, D, F) to match that of UT undergraduate grading system. This will go to Graduate Council (GC) for discussion and voting in the next GC meeting. Also, the Graduate Council was informed of efforts by Graduate school to develop a standardize way to communicate through email with potential applicants, and create a blueprint for collecting graduate student data (graduation rate, scholarship, time to graduate, etc). The Graduate student senate briefed the Graduate Council about travel award (conferences, exhibits) and residency policy (in-state tuition for grad students).

6. Old Business:
   Current efforts to re-activate the UTSI Library, Tolk: Tolk gave a brief update on the work being carried out.

7. Adjournment:
   The meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM (J. Johnson moved, Parigger seconded).

Respectfully Submitted,
Lino Costa
Secretary