Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting  
15-February-2012, 10:00 AM, H-111  
Approved 18-April-2012

Members Present: Pujol, Smith, Simonton, Costa, Hofmeister, Yue, Antar, J. Johnson, Moeller, Steinhoff, Vakili, Crater, Davis, Parigger, Moore, C. Johnson, King (Student Rep).

Members Not Present: Corda, Solies, Murray, Majdalani, Chen.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM with a quorum present.
2. Minutes of the 09-Nov-11 Faculty Assembly meeting were approved unanimously by voice vote. (Hofmeister moved, Antar seconded.)
3. Committee Reports
   a. Executive Committee. Dr. Crater reported that the Executive Committee had met on 08-Feb-12 to form the Agenda for this meeting.
   b. Library Committee. Dr. Davis reported that the Library Committee had not met since the last Faculty Assembly meeting but was still looking into cost-saving measures, especially with regard to electronic Nature journals.
   c. Research Committee. Dr. Parigger reported for Dr. Steinhoff that the Research Committee had not met since the last Faculty Assembly meeting and had not been afforded input in new faculty hires. Dr. Moore reported that he had taken this issue to the department head at UTK and received a negative response. Later, Dr. Steinhoff clarified that the input was only expected to be in an advisory capacity. Some discussion ensued.
   d. Student Affairs Committee. Dr. Moore reported that the Student Affairs committee and the UTSI administration were looking at a health clinic using UT Chattanooga.
   e. UTK Graduate Council. Dr. Parigger reported that UT will be providing 60 new 4-year scholarships at $20K/yr. The Academic Policy committee will vote on the option of an embargo on electronic access to recently published (within 1 yr) theses and dissertations.
   f. UTK Faculty Senate. Dr. Davis reported that he and Dr. Hofmeister had attended the last Senate meeting, and that members had expressed dissatisfaction and complained about numerous items, including: HR hiring policies, the SAIS evaluation system, the IT Center, the billboard on the library, line feeds into buildings, funding for the upcoming salary increase, the consulting firm hired to formulate a UT System Strategic Plan, and freedom of speech issues for faculty.
   g. Dr. Crater noted urged the Faculty Affairs committee to meet and elect a chair.
4. Administrative Reports
   a. Chief Operating Officer and Director of Office of Research. Dr. Moore introduced Dr. James Simonton, as the new head of DE and Associate Professor of EM. He stated that the faculty searches in MABE had reached the interview stage with over 12 candidates, and that a new position in Physics may be coming. The funding situation for building improvements had been worked out with the Fire Marshall, and money will go to the dormitory, lobby, auditorium, and outside
stairs. The results of the recent UT employee survey were overall positive, but some town-hall meetings will be held to address areas of concern.

b. Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. C. Johnson reported on the issues discussed at the last meeting of the Academic Committee. These included the offering and teaching of core courses in AE/ME, UTK members of UTSI student committees, and the role of faculty emeritus on student committees. He reported that the new student enrollment in Fall 2011 was 44. (25 in IE, 3 in AE, 5 in Av Sys, 2 in EM, 3 in ES, 1 in ME, and 5 non-degree)

5. Old Business
   a. Math 511-512. Dr. Crater reported on his efforts to develop an applied mathematics course sequence for UTSI students.

6. New Business
   a. Election of UTK Faculty Senator. Dr. Davis reported that we need to elect a new Senator, and asked for nominations from the floor. Dr. Hofmeister was nominated. Additional nominations will be solicited and the election will be conducted by e-mail.
   b. Student Application Pool. Discussion was carried out concerning the possibility of allowing UTSI access to students who apply to UTK. Dr. Moore reported that this was a critical issue and that it was being worked on.
   c. Role of the Faculty Assembly. Some members raised the issue of the role of the Faculty Assembly. It was generally agreed to look into this and deal with it at the next meeting.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Montgomery Smith
Secretary