Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting  
10-April-2013, 10:00 AM, H-111  
Approved

**Members Present:** Abedi, Anusonti-Inthra, Crater, Davis, Moeller, Parigger, Vakili, Zhang, Solies, Costa, Yue, Moore, Majdalani, Hofmeister, Simonton.

**Members Not Present:** Chen, Martos, C. Johnson, J. Johnson, Rogers (Student representative).

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM with a quorum present.

2. Davis proposed one change to the Minutes of the 06-February-2013 Faculty Assembly meeting. The modified minutes were approved unanimously by hand vote. (Vakili moved, Moeller seconded.)

3. Report from Executive Director, Dr. Moore:
   Dr. Moore informed the faculty assembly of two recent hires, namely Dr. Steve Brooks who joined the MABE department as tenure-track associate professor and will be part of the airborne sciences group, and Ms. Denise Cox appointed UTSI Development Director. The responsibilities of the Development Director were briefly outlined. Regarding the issue of sequestration, Dr. Moore mentioned that it remains unclear how it affects UTSI. However, Dr. Moore noted that sequestration does affect ATA significantly. Dr. Moore added that the search for faculty for Engineering Management continues to move forward, having the search committee identified four candidates. Dr. Moore also noted that Dr. John Kobza accepted the offer to head the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at UTK, starting August 1st, and that Dr. Matthew Mench will replace Dr. Bill Hamel as head of the MABE department at UTK, starting August 1st.

4. Report from Executive Committee, Dr. Davis:
   Davis brought to discussion the election of members for Standing Committees, to serve during the next academic year, and the election of President Elect, Secretary and Member at Large, to serve in the Executive Committee. Davis mentioned that the Executive Committee passed a motion to “roll-over the names of current standing committee members for the next academic year”. Solies stated that the Nominations Committee did not have any nominations for election of President Elect, Secretary and Member at Large, to present at this Faculty Assembly meeting. Davis informed that Costa accepted nomination for Secretary and that Moeller was stepping down as member at large. Vakili made a motion calling the Nominations Committee to seek nominations for President Elect, Secretary, and Member at Large, and proceed with elections by electronic mail, after this Faculty Assembly meeting. The Faculty Assembly approved this motion with twelve votes in favor and three votes against. (Vakili moved, Solies seconded). Parigger reminded that only tenured Faculty can serve as President Elect. Parigger nominated Majdalani for President Elect. Majdalani accepted.

5. Elections for Executive Committee were carried out after the Faculty Assembly meeting. On April 23rd, Solies e-mailed the ballot for election of positions on the UTSI Faculty
Assembly to the Faculty Assembly members. The ballot contained 2 candidates for President Elect (Majdalani and Parigger), 1 candidate for Secretary (Costa), and 2 candidates for Executive Committee Member at Large (Parigger and Zhang). On May 2nd, Solies announced the results of the election to Faculty Assembly members via electronic mail: President Elect – Majdalani; Secretary – Costa; Member at Large – Zhang.

6. Reports from Standing Committees:
   a. Education (Davis in for C. Johnson): Davis outlined the effects of sequestration on enrollments and UTSI budget.
   b. Student Affairs (Costa): Costa informed that the Student Affairs Committee had met on April 1st, and briefly reported on the items discussed at the meeting.

7. Reports from UTSI representatives to UT Knoxville Faculty Senate & Graduate Council (and elections of new members)

Davis informed he attended the Faculty Senate Meeting held on April 8. Davis outlined a few of the items mentioned in the Chancellor’s Report. In particular, the participation of UTK in the Confucius Institute, scheduled to start on Friday, April 12, was noted. Davis also noted that Chancellor Cheek informed that the across the board 1.5 % salary increase does apply to UTSI. The Incentive Plan for Full Professors, progress in promoting sponsored department chairs and professorships, and issues related to UTK funding for Sex Week activities were items in the Chancellor’s report also highlighted by Davis. Minutes of this Faculty Senate Meeting can be found at http://senate-utk.edu.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2012/08/April-2013.min_.pdf.

Vakili informed the Faculty Assembly that the on-going election for the Faculty Senate would include the election of an alternate for the UTSI Senate Caucus. On April 10th, Vakili e-mailed the ballot for election of UTSI Faculty Senators to the Faculty Assembly. The ballot contained three candidates (Majdalani, Parigger, and Simonton). On April 15th, Vakili announced the results of the election via electronic mail: incoming UTK Faculty Senator - Majdalani; Incoming UTK Faculty Senate Alternate – Simonton.

Parigger reported on the Graduate Council meeting held on April 4. Minutes of this meeting can be found at http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/Minutes/Minutes%20April%20Dean%20Report.pdf. Parigger highlighted an excerpt from the Credentials Committee report regarding faculty approval to direct dissertations. In particular, Parigger noted that “Tenure-track faculty are eligible to direct dissertations subject to program approval as indicated by a vote of the tenured faculty and a letter of support from the program head. These items should be forwarded to the Credentials Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Graduate Council.”

Regarding elections for the Graduate Council, Parigger noted the need to elect a representative and an alternate. Parigger called for nominations. Moore noted that results of the election must be communicated to the Senate by April 19. Parigger declared he
would proceed with this election by electronic mail by April 12. On April 10th, Parigger e-mailed the ballot for Graduate Council representation to the Faculty Assembly. The ballot contained three candidates for Graduate Council representative (Hofmeister, Majdalani, and Anusonti-Inthra). On April 13th, Parigger announced the results of the GC election via electronic mail: GC Representative - Anusonti-Inthra; Alternate GC Representative – Majdalani, both for the next three years, commencing August 1 2013/2014 to July 31 2015/2016.

8. Old business:

a. **Next UTSI Faculty Assembly “Mic Morning” event.** Davis reminded the Faculty Assembly that this event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, from 9h00 to 11h00 am, in room H-111. Davis, Zhang and Solies had previously agreed to present their research interests and discuss possible future collaborations at this event. Davis called for more participants. Moeller and Simonton agreed to add their names to the list of speakers. (At the April 24 event, the speakers were: Davis, Simonton, Solies, Zhang.)

b. **Establish a work group to review current Faculty Assembly operation and recommend changes for alignment with the Faculty Senate.** Regarding the plans to transition the Faculty Assembly into an entity that will operate within the umbrella of the UT Faculty Senate, Dr. Davis informed the Faculty Assembly that during their April 3 meeting, the Executive Committee moved to “establish a work group to develop the process and periodically report to the FA”. Parigger noted that the Shared Governance guidelines on page 9 of the Faculty Handbook could help setup a body for this transition. After a brief discussion, the faculty assembly members present approved the following motion: *The UTSI Faculty Assembly calls on Dr. Vakili to head and form a work group tasked with reviewing the Faculty Assembly operation.* (Davis moved, Moeller seconded; two faculty members abstained).

9. Requests for new business and announcements:

a. Majdalani informed the Faculty Assembly that two UTSI students, Michel Akiki and Alexander Woods, were recognized at the recent Chancellor’s Honors Banquet, where they were presented with the Chancellor’s Citation Award for Extraordinary Professional Promise. Further information on this event, held April 8th in Knoxville at the University Center, can be found at [http://www.utsi.edu/news/News_2013/release4-22-13studentsrecognizedchancellorshonorbanquet.html](http://www.utsi.edu/news/News_2013/release4-22-13studentsrecognizedchancellorshonorbanquet.html).

b. Majdalani announced that two UTSI students, Andrew Fist and Dimitrios A. Kakavelakis III, won first (Fist) and second (Kakavelakis) place best paper awards in the Masters Division of the 64th AIAA Southeastern Regional Conference. Majdalani noted that this marks an unprecedented four-year winning streak for his students. More information on this win can be found at [http://www.utsi.edu/news/News_2013/release4-16-13studentswinbestpaperawards.htm](http://www.utsi.edu/news/News_2013/release4-16-13studentswinbestpaperawards.htm).
c. Parigger announced that UTSI student David Surmick won a summer internship at Sandia National Labs, in Albuquerque, NM. For more information, please visit http://www.utsi.edu/news/News_2013/release4-22-13studentselectedsandiainternship.htm.

10. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM. (Moeller moved, Abedi seconded.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Lino Costa
Secretary