

## MINUTES OF THE UTIA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

August 13, 2008, Room 156/157 Plant Biotechnology Building

**The meeting was called to order** at 8:30 am by chair V. Pantalone. Council members present for all or part of the meeting were G. Bates, E. Bernard (secretary), D. Edwards (past-chair), D. Hale, J. Harris, C. Heiskell, R. Holland, J. Larson, C. Mendis-Handagama, V. Pantalone, B. Riddle, A. Saxton, B. Simpson, J. Weigel, D. Yates, and S. Zivanovic (chair-elect). New Council members present were E. Bedwell, J. Blackford, W. Hart, and G. Pighetti. Faculty Senate Representative S. Kania also was in attendance. Vice-President J. DiPietro, Deans T. Cross (UT Extension), W. Brown (Experiment Station), C. Beyl (CASNR), and Dr. L. Potgieter (CVM) also attended parts of the meeting. Chairman Pantalone distributed the revised agenda and urged all members, especially new members, to visit the Advisory Council web site and to be familiar with the roles of the Advisory Council in the Institute of Agriculture. All new members present were introduced, and those rotating off the Council were recognized. A motion to approve the agenda (*attachment 1*) was made by G. Bates, seconded by C. Heiskell, and approved. Following a suggestion from D. Edwards for a minor acronym change in the minutes of the April 22, 2008, meeting, D. Hale moved to accept the corrected minutes, V. Pantalone seconded, and the motion was approved. Finally, V. Pantalone expressed his appreciation to S. Zivanovic for chairing the April 2008 meeting in his absence.

Chairman Pantalone then moved to **Old Business**, and called on S. Zivanovic to discuss Section 10 of the Advisory Council By-laws. S. Zivanovic described the changes proposed (*original and revised, attachment 2*). The principal change is that Council members designated to report from each of the four units of UTIA will provide a written report on unit activities at the summer Council meeting only. S. Zivanovic also recommended that changes and reports should be posted on-line so they are available to all UTIA personnel.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the purpose and content of the reports. D. Edwards pointed out the need to develop guidelines for unit reports – some points are vital within units but irrelevant to the others; perhaps only issues common across units should be listed. On the other hand, G. Bates expressed an interest in reviewing the highlights of each unit. E. Bernard questioned the purpose of going from three reports to one, since some news or issues might go stale over time. G. Bates asked how each unit does its report. V. Pantalone described his approach to reporting, which partially consists of department head meetings and superintendent concerns transmitted via B. Simpson. G. Bates pointed out that the central reporting function in Extension makes such reports easier. D. Hale stated that reports often were not provided in writing in time for meetings, but were provided orally, and suggested three written reports and one annual oral report. Several members expressed the difficulty of providing both written and oral reports at the same meeting; V. Pantalone suggested that perhaps meetings could be lengthened, and G. Bates emphasized the usefulness of guidelines in order to be more efficient. D. Hale suggested that reports be done in bullet form to facilitate comprehension, and asked who the new reporters would be. V. Pantalone indicated the following persons: E. Bernard (Experiment Station), G. Bates (UT Extension), S. Zivanovic (CASNR), and J. Weigel (CVM).

Chairman Pantalone then moved on to the proposal to add to the Advisory Council a representative from Marketing and Communications. This action would require revision of the Council By-Laws, Article II, Section 1 (*see attachment 3*). D. Hale suggested that M&C has a hunger for finding out what's happening, and would be more committed to communication of Council activities if it had a representative on the Council. V. Pantalone mentioned that M&C currently has 14 employees.

Chairman Pantalone then called the Council's attention to **New Business**, by asking for discussion on tracking Council issues. Both V. Pantalone and S. Zivanovic suggested a spreadsheet that would facilitate and follow through on the resolution of issues, including parts such as background, progress, and contacts. Questions arose as to the intended audience. J. Larson asked if there would be a way for readers to provide comment. D. hale indicated that there are problems sorting out issues appropriate to the Council, deans, 4-H, etc., but that greater involvement should be a goal. However, issues on the spreadsheet should be controlled by the Council. W. hart emphasized that discussions often are lost and that written input would be desirable. V. Pantalone indicated that he would work with the Executive Committee to come up with a trial version.

Chair Pantalone then brought up a request from Dean Albrecht that a member of the Advisory Council be appointed to the CASNR By-Laws Committee to serve as liaison between the two groups. V. pantalone believed this was probably a good idea. G. Bates suggested that CASNR By-Law 4.1.2 (attachment 4) could include the line "...and a member of the UTIA Advisory Council executive Committee..." and moved that the Council endorse the recommendation to appoint such a representative to the By-Laws Committee. The motion was seconded by D. Hale and approved. (*Secretary's note: The CASNR/Experiment Station/UT Extension by-laws specify that members of the By-laws Committee are faculty as defined elsewhere in the by-laws and that department heads and deans of all categories are excluded from membership. Also, the intent of the by-laws was to derive its membership from the seven academic departments and one extension department in which teaching occurs. Thus, there is a question as to whether an Advisory Council Extension member can serve as a by-law representative unless he or she is a faculty member in one of the eight units specified in the CASNR/Experiment Station/UT Extension bylaws.*)

The order of the agenda was changed to allow Catherine Nyinyi, a graduate student in CASNR, to describe certain graduate student concerns, in particular the difficulty of international students retaining their status as students when they transitioned from M.S. to Ph.D. programs. Departments, the Graduate School, and the Center for International Education (CIE) are all involved in this mess. S. Zivanovic stated that CIE is reorganizing and that may account for part of the problem. R. Holland emphasized that this is a significant issue, and that subjectivity of opinions in CIE is a real problem.

On consideration of the value of electing a graduate student representative to the Advisory Council, S. Kania suggested that the member could be picked by the Graduate Student Council, and E. Bernard proposed that an ex officio member could be appointed by Dean Beyl. Adding new members would require changing Article II, Section 1 of the Council By-Laws (*attachment 5*).

After-hours parking generated significant discussion. New parking regulations require that all vehicles parked on campus have a UT permit (permanent or daily) at all times, regardless of day or time. This measure was adopted to provide increased security on campus: "If you don't have a tag you're not supposed to be here." Non-university persons attending sanctioned meetings, conferences, workshops, clinics, etc., are expected to pay a \$5.00 daily fee for parking. D. Edwards stated that this fee is bad policy and runs counter to UT's professed desire for outreach programs. C. Heiskell pointed out that Extension has this same problem. D. Hale indicated that MTSU and other regional universities do not charge, and that with the squeeze on budgets, extension programs may need to meet at free institutions rather than UTK. V. Pantalone asked what feedback UT or UTIA is getting on this policy. C. Heiskell noted that parking hostility will, in the long run, negatively influence perceptions of UT. V. Pantalone then asked if UTIA could develop a separate policy. W. Hart responded that the opinion of Parking and Transit Services is, "You park, you pay." Further, there was no recognition of special ag campus needs. Even those persons who ride K-Trans during the week need to buy a hang-tag if they want to drive in on weekends.

V. Pantalone called for a short break at 10:04 am. The meeting reconvened at 10:17 am, and the discussion of **New Business** continued.

**Chair Pantalone then introduced VP J. DiPietro** and asked him about any parking feedback. The Vice-President stated that he had not had any, and asked for clarification of the problem. G. Bates summarized earlier discussion by pointing out that attendees of educational programs, training sessions, and volunteer groups, among others, are charged to park on campus. Currently, a certain number of passes are free, but additional passes must be bought. D. Edwards brought up the possibility of an electronic format for obtaining passes. W. Hart reiterated the stance of PTS, and suggested that although outreach is important, UT through its policies does not seem to want it. D. Hale elaborated by stating that the current policy reflects badly on UT, and that other universities are more welcoming and therefore more attractive for these activities. D. Yates concurred that extension groups feel somewhat unwelcome because of parking and problems getting a facility in which to meet. Such events are not 8-5 events, but rather occur on the weekends, and other options will need to be found. J. Weigel pointed out the representative case of the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society, which provides scholarship money to Plant Sciences but cannot meet on campus.

Turning to the issue of evaluations, V. Pantalone asked the VP about seeing the annual reports provided by the Deans. VP DiPietro responded that there may be sensitive issues with necessary actions in the reports that could be misperceived by some faculty. S. Zivanovic suggested that these reports would be a good way of seeing what's going on, and Dean Beyl agreed that the Advisory Council would benefit by seeing elements of the reports. VP DiPietro suggested that posting each dean's accomplishments and problems to a web site probably would be acceptable.

As a final note of new business, V. Pantalone indicated continuing problems with temperature regulation in Plant Biotech.

**Chair Pantalone then asked VP DiPietro** for his comments (*summary, attachment 6*). Budget cuts are likely to carry over to next year. We will figure out ways to compensate for loss of

revenue and to locate new sources. On reappointment issues, the current procedures create lines of battle (conflict) of deans vs. faculty-staff-students. Administrators are working on handbook changes to eliminate this problem. On annual evaluation forms, the VP wants to add a category between “meets” and “exceeds.” The Advisory Council should periodically examine the various review instruments to be sure they are applicable. The VP also proposed the development of electronic Promotion & Tenure dossiers to smooth and streamline the process, an idea applauded by several Advisory Council members. The VP recognized that faculty development leave was a good thing, but that various issues remain unresolved, such as who covers teaching duties, supervises graduate students, etc. Finally, changes in the biofuels initiative program were discussed. These changes include new partners, a new proposed initial output (250,000 gallons/year), and the use of corncobs as a secondary input. Ethanol is expected by the end of 2009.

**Dean Cross** then was invited to speak. He expressed a firm desire for collegiality with the other deans. Programmatic changes will not occur overnight. Dean Cross reviewed the status of other Extension administrators and provided a handout on the assistant dean search (*attachment 7*).

**Dean Brown** then made comments to the Advisory Council, expressing his pleasure at being part of UT. The Dean stated his desire to have integration of programs across units, and also that he wants dialog with faculty in solving problems, pledging an open-door policy. The Dean indicated that he wants a faculty-driven effort to identify metrics of research productivity, with the goal being improvement of both faculty and university recognition, not just through peer-reviewed publications but also other interactions. Dean Brown also expressed a strong desire to assist in increasing productivity through internal competitions, workshops, etc., and indicated that he wanted to attend faculty meetings when possible.

**Dr. Potgieter** then reported on CVM activities. A new dean would be on board as of October 1. Incoming student enrollment had been projected to increase from 70 to 85, but turned out to be up to 95; this year, most out-of-state students wanted to come to UTCVM regardless of cost. Limited accreditation of 2-4 years was expected, primarily because of some problems with the large animal facility; this has not been a problem with quality of service, just with the need for capital improvements now being resolved. Design of the tissue digester is in the final stages.

**Dean Beyl** was then given the floor (*attachment 8*). The Pre-Vet has moved from Arts and Sciences to CASNR. New recruitment materials have been prepared to update the CASNR image, and copies were passed around. Dean Beyl described problems in the admissions process and efforts being made to redress them; these problems center around a very murky freshman selection process that sometimes excludes outstanding applicants. Also, the Dean reviewed the progress on finding a head for Plant Sciences. With regard to academic program reviews, procedures are being changed to include review of the three-fold mission within each unit. Finally, Dean Beyl discussed the progress being made in academic revising review, and how to make it better.

At this point, V. Pantalone turned over the position of Chair to the S. Zivanovic, who then provided the names of the nominees for Advisory Council offices and called for votes on each one. Bobby Simpson was elected as the new Chair-Elect, Willie Hart was elected as the new

Member-at-Large, and E. Bernard was reelected as Secretary. Reports from the units were passed out to Council members (*attachments 9-12*). Seeing that the business of the Council was concluded, Chair Zivanovic adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest Bernard". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Ernest C. Bernard  
Secretary