

MINUTES
UTIA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2009, 156/157 PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY BUILDING

The meeting was called to order by Chair S. Zivanovic at 8:32 am. Members present for all or part of the meeting were G. Bates, E. Bedwell, E. Bernard, J. Blackford, D. Buehler, L. Craig, D. Hale, J. Harris, W. Hart, K. Lamour, J. Larson, V. Pantalone, G. Pighetti, B. Riddle, B. Simpson, J. Weigel, and S. Zivanovic.

The agenda was reviewed and V. Pantalone moved to accept the agenda, which was seconded by G. Bates and approved. D. Hale moved to accept the agenda, with a second by V. Pantalone. After a few minor emendations were pointed out, the motion was approved.

As Vice-President DiPietro was running late, the order of the agenda was suspended. G. Pighetti was invited to present the report of the Space Subcommittee (handout), which was discussed by the Council.

Vice-President DiPietro then presented his report, which included a draft version of the UTIA Space Committee policy. This policy is a blend of the Advisory Council report and UTIA Space Committee recommendations. Considerable discussion followed on various aspects of the VP's draft version and points that differed from the Advisory Council report. G. Pighetti moved to support the VP's draft guidelines, and W. Hart seconded. The motion passed.

The VP continued by discussing changes in the faculty handbook regarding annual evaluations. The VP also reviewed a new five-rank form that will be used on a trial basis (handouts). The UTIA vision and mission statement provided to the Board of Trustees was reviewed. A final item was discussion of outside work, especially item 5c in the VP's handout, which in general prohibits UT Extension and UT AgResearch employees from outside work for pay within the State of Tennessee. Finally, G. Pighetti asked about the process of e-mail migration, to which the VP responded that he believed it would be very beneficial in the long run.

Dean Caula Beyl, CASNR, then was invited to make her comments. Dean Beyl provided a handout on details regarding enrollment, workshops, and other activities. She was particularly pleased to get approval for course fees in several departments, and also announced that some extra GTA money was coming to CASNR.

Dean Bill Brown then made his comments, indicating that the budget stimulus was very helpful, enabling some faculty searches from which every department should benefit. The dean also was pleased to outline changes to the grants office, especially in pre-awards activity; three pre-award coordinators will serve research and extension. The voluntary retirement program is working, with about 25 employees so far taking advantage of it. Finally, Dean Brown mentioned that the Research and Extension Internal Grants Program is supported by stimulus funds, and that some funds will be available for equipment purchases.

Dean Tim Cross then briefly reviewed events in UT Extension. The Extension budget is currently in good shape. Six faculty and 34 staff are taking incentive retirement, and most have come back to work part-time. Some open positions will be filled, and stimulus funds are available for new programs and equipment. Extension will have a memorable centennial celebration in 2010; the first agent was hired in 1910 (Lauderdale County). Dean Cross also reported that the recent legislative visit went well.

The College of Veterinary Medicine report was presented by **Assistant Dean Buddy Moore**. UTCVM currently faces two problems: a 13.6% reduction in its budget, and the need for \$20.9 million to bring the Large Animal Hospital up to current standards. However, good news is that the digester project is moving along, and that the pass rate for the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam was 97%, higher than the national average. Also, a Veterinary Technician program is being discussed with Pellissippi State. Outside funding also is on its way up, and UTCVM may be getting a \$1 million challenge grant.

After a short break from 10:50-11:00 am, **Mike Keel** presented information on capital construction and other physical plant changes. Brehm will receive a new façade and should be a beautiful introduction to the Ag campus, followed by Ellington. G. Pighetti asked about parking during the Brehm work. Mr. Keel indicated only 5 spaces will be lost; construction staging areas will be between Brehm and River Drive. E. Bedwell asked about electronic communications among Extension offices, and was told that progress is being made. Mr. Keel also discussed e-mail migration, reporting that it was going fairly smoothly, and that it was not difficult to get up to speed.

Lorna Norwood, Director of Marketing and Communications, then was invited to give an update on activities in M&C. Ms. Norwood indicated that M&C was involved in the Biofuels Task Force and working closely with CVM on the Large Animal Hospital, among many other activities. Ms. Norwood presented a handout listing the staff of M&C and their specific assignments. The M&C staff is working to stay far enough ahead of developing issues to provide positive coverage.

The Advisory Council then turned to Old Business. The Plant Biotech handicap door at the back of the building has been approved for installation. Given time constraints, the remaining agenda items were deferred to the next meeting so that elections could take place. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am, then reconvened under the chairmanship of new chair B. Simpson.

After a bit of good-natured discussion, D. Buehler nominated G. Pighetti for Chair-Elect. The nomination was seconded by W. Hart and G. Pighetti was elected unanimously.

S. Zivanovic nominated K. Lamour for the post of secretary, seconded by L. Craig, and he was elected unanimously.

G. Pighetti nominated W. Hart as Member-At-Large, and the nomination was seconded by E. Bedwell. Hart was elected unanimously.

Chair B. Simpson announced that the next meeting of the Advisory Council would be September 25, 2009, in 102 Morgan Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernest Bernard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Ernest C. Bernard
Secretary