

**MINUTES OF THE UTIA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
(AS AMENDED AT THE AUGUST 2009 MEETING)**

**March 5, 2009, 156/157 Plant Biotechnology Building**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by chair S. Zivanovic. Council members present for all or part of the meeting were G. Bates, E. Bernard, J. Blackford, D. Hale, J. Harris (conference call), J. Larson, C. Mendis-Handagama, G. Pighetti, B. Riddle (conference call), B. Simpson, W. Hart, and S. Zivanovic. Also present were Faculty Senate representatives S. Kania and J. Mount. The agenda of the current meeting and minutes of the October 2008 meeting were approved.

S. Kania and J. Mount reported on matters facing the **Faculty Senate**. At the time of the meeting a resolution to the budget crisis was not clear. The Faculty Senate is leaning to reorganization to focus more on the things the Senate can do effectively, including discussions on the status of the athletics committee. UTIA will have one less senator due to FTE reductions. The appointment of Jan Simek as interim president is a chance to make major changes in policy and budget. The search for a new UT president will go slowly as the Regents-Trustees relationship is worked out.

Chair Zivanovic then asked UTIA **Vice-President J. DiPietro** for his comments. Dr. DiPietro discussed the role of the Advisory Council, and recommended the use of action lists to keep issues from falling through the cracks. The Advisory Council should feel empowered to provide advice. W. Hart asked about the completion of the process – after recommendations, is there closing of the loop? B. Simpson asked about the possible combination of Regents and Trustees to avoid redundant programs. The VP replied that the Tennessee House of representatives is looking at oversight of the state's colleges and universities, and wants to take an objective approach to the governing bodies, consolidation of programs, etc. One problem is that the two bodies have different missions.

The VP presented and discussed budget forms (see handout). He made it clear that stimulus funds should be considered a one-shot deal.

Finally, Dr. DiPietro indicated that the Space Committee bylaws need updating, and asked that the Advisory Council look at them with the possibility of having faculty members that rotate on and off regularly. He stressed that he wished to have the report as soon as possible.

**UTCVM Dean J. Thompson** then presented his update on the Vet School, and provided a summary handout on budget, curriculum initiatives, etc. He pointed out that CVM has 6 faculty searches currently underway. On a more discordant note, UTCVM currently has limited accreditation due primarily to deficiencies in the Large Animal Hospital. CVM is going through an educational process with state government to stress the need for updating the facility and the long-range importance of being fully accredited.

**Experiment Station Dean W. Brown** took the floor to discuss progress in research programs. He announced that he had just established a task force on grantsmanship assistance (faculty from LEAD 21 program) to research ways that the dean's office could assist in preparation. Outside of UT, he indicated that grants.gov was overloaded with submissions. Dean Brown also discussed the Research Metrics task force. This task force will concentrate on the research side only. Its products will not replace the faculty evaluation form but may help to augment it, and it will be faculty-driven in content and approach.

Regarding budget cuts, the dean indicated that all statewide programs are being examined. Departments will make decisions on their own programs and reductions. For Research and Education Centers, the directors will work with heads and faculty on the types of research done at a particular REC, and look for consolidations and shifts of effort. We have to keep the Experiment Station mission in mind when making these decisions.

Chair S. Zivanovic then asked **UT Extension Dean T. Cross** for his update. Dean Cross briefly described the faculty and staff retirement incentive program, and indicated that a 35% appointment could be made for one year following retirement. He indicated that the Milan 4-H center was being closed, with the layoff of 5 employees. Finally, Dean Cross discussed the problems that UT Extension was having with regard to the legislature-mandated responsibility of Extension to investigate animal cruelty cases. Much to the shock of the council, the Dean stated that extension personnel work on up to 1,000 cases of animal cruelty a year, that this takes a great deal of time away from the other job responsibilities of agents, and that most important, these cases sometimes lead to confrontations that result in violence or threats of violence against Extension personnel, who are not trained in this sort of work. The Dean is trying to have the law changes to relieve extension of this responsibility.

In the absence of a representative, there was no handout on CASNR activities.

The Council moved on to **Old Business**. The question of having a Marketing and Communications representative on the Council as a member was discussed again. G. Bates moved to add an M&C person as a member, seconded by D. Hale. The discussion centered primarily on the suitability of having a voting M&C member appointed to an elected faculty-driven Council, and on the fact that an M&C representative could be invited to attend Council meetings. The motion was called on the motion, with a vote of **1 For, 10 Against**. E. Bernard then moved to invite an M&C representative to attend and report on a regular basis at Advisory Council meetings. G. Bates seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Council moved on to discussion of written and oral reports. D. Hale suggested that the spring meeting was the best time for an annual report, with one spring report only. W. Hart asked what the purpose was of these reports. E. Bernard indicated a lot of this discussion also occurred at the August 2008 meeting. Long, inconclusive discussion then followed on this issue.

Later, discussion moved on to the timing of meeting dates. The cross-state membership of the committee frequently makes it difficult for all members to attend, a problem exacerbated by tight travel budgets. It was pointed out that dates could be moved around to better accommodate members, with the exception of the fall meeting, which needed to be on the same day as the State of the Institute address. (For instance, the summer meeting did not need to be tied to the Awards reception.) E. Bernard asked if the VP could subsidize the costs of transportation for those Council members distant from Knoxville.

Chair S. Zivanovic handed out an Active Action list of items currently under discussion by the Advisory Council, and asked for suggestions and improvements. She then handed out an e-mail (see attachment) from Arnold Saxton about some possible flaws in the process of electing new Advisory Council members. Finally, S. Zivanovic appointed a committee to prepare recommendations on the composition and functions of the UTIA Space Committee. Members of the committee are G. Pighetti (chair), W. Hart, and E. Bernard.

There being no further business, the meeting was ended at noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest C. Bernard  
Secretary