

## **Gary S. Sayler: Statement of Interest and Qualifications**

I am quite interested in serving on either the Presidential Search Committee (Preferably) or the search advisory council. In my 28 years at UTK I have witnessed the amazingly aberrant search process that UT has used in selecting presidential and senior administrative candidates. It has become clear that a discriminating and fundamental mission of the University, Research, has been poorly represented in the search for leaders of the Institution. The Institution, the State and its citizens have been badly served by our inability to articulate and capitalize on the importance for scholarly and creative achievements of our faculty and students. The kind of achievements that lead to not only an enriched education process but also economic and cultural opportunities that are critical to enhancing the lives, careers and wealth creating potential for future generations of Tennessee's citizens.

UT is a complex Institution as are its roles and responsibilities within the State of Tennessee. I believe it takes a Seasoned leader from a comparable Institution (Carnegie I University, Federal Agency, Fortune 1000 Co.) with strong academic credentials and a commitment to our Research Role to represent this Institution effectively to Legislators, alumni and sponsors. Serving on the Search Committee would allow me to balance the search process and help insure that our presidential candidates are best prepared to help the faculty move this institution forward.

I believe that my extensive research and publication record, in addition to a long term commitment to undergraduate and graduate education, and extensive national and international experience in review and research agenda setting activities is well suited to representing the academic and faculty perspective on the search committee.