

## MEETING OF FACULTY — 2nd MAY 2003

### Faculty present

B. Antar, B. Bomar, F. Collins, H. Crater, L. Davis, G. Flandro, G. Garrison, M. Hailey, R. Joseph, R. Kimberlin, K. Kimble, J. Lewis, C. Merkle, T. Moulden, C. Parigger, A. Sheth, P. Solies.

### Enactments

Dr. Antar opened the meeting by noting that the Faculty Senate had modified its Bylaws to include a Faculty Caucus at each unit. This caucus consists of the elected Faculty Senators for that unit (for UTSI this is K. Kimble, B. Antar and T. Moulden with B. Bomar to take the place of K. Kimble for the fall semester). The UTSI Caucus had already met and elected Dr. B. Antar as Chairman. As stated in the Senate Bylaws, the Caucus could call a meeting of the entire faculty of its unit, at any time and to discuss any pertinent issue. For UTSI, at the present time, this issue is the very future of the Institute.

It was the general feeling of the faculty present that the Institute Revitalization plan — pushed forward by the COO (Dr. J. Caruthers) without adequate consultation with the faculty — was little more than (in the words of one present) Committing Suicide for the Institute. The entire issue was made all the more significant by the letters sent by the COO to thirteen faculty members of the Institute offering \$35,000 for their resignation (or retirement if appropriate). May 1, 2003 was the date on these letters. This would leave the Institute with insufficient faculty to teach the needed courses next Fall.

Two resolutions were offered from the floor. To wit:

**R1** *Be it resolved that the tenured faculty at UTSI has no confidence in the current COO of the University of Tennessee Space Institute*

This resolution was tabled after a short discussion.

**R2** *Whereas shared governance is a guiding principle for both the UT Administration through its President, Dr. John Shumaker and its Provost Dr Loren Crabtree as well as for the UT Faculty Senate;*  
*Whereas inadequate consultation was made with the UTSI faculty on the structuring of the revitalization plan;*  
*Whereas the total commitment by the UTSI faculty for the revitalization plan is necessary for its success;*  
*Whereas the revitalization plan in its current form lacks the necessary elements of a workable plan;*  
*Whereas the revitalization plan does not address the essential problems at UTSI;*  
*Be it resolved that the UTSI faculty do not support the revitalization plan in its current form, and*  
*Be it further resolved that a revised plan be developed with full participation of the UTSI faculty.*

Considerable discussion surrounded the second resolution, including the adoption of several amendments.

A vote was taken on the second resolution, **R2**, with **16 faculty supporting and 1 abstaining**. Shown here is the final version of **R2**.

After more discussion, mostly about **R1**, **7 faculty supported, 4 rejected and 4 abstained** in a vote on the first resolution (two members had left the meeting by this time). It has been reported that **3** members who **abstained** in the vote now wish to change their vote to **approving** the resolution.

It was agreed that another meeting would be held next week to address other issues of concern to the faculty. In the mean time B. Antar was to discuss our problems in more detail with the President of the Faculty Senate.

recorded by T. Moulden