

**University System Relations Committee Meeting  
Wednesday December 1, 2010, University Center (218), 3:30-5:00PM**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Beauvais Lyons (Chair), Svetlana Zivanovic, Cathy Cochran, Doug Blaze, India Lane (UTFC), Toby Boulet (BOT), Hillary Fouts.

**Members Absent:** Gregory Sedrick, John Lounsbury

**Guest:** Vice-President David Millhorn

1. **Approval of the minutes from September 27, 2010** posted at:  
[http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2010-11/System Relations 9-27-10.pdf](http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2010-11/System%20Relations%209-27-10.pdf), approved.
2. **UT System Research:** Discussion with Vice-President David Millhorn regarding of UT System Research initiatives in relationship to campus research goals and activities. Some links the committee reviewed in advance include:  
<http://research.tennessee.edu/>  
<http://tennessee.edu/ornl/index.html>  
<http://www.utbioenergy.org/TNBiofuelsInitiative/>  
<http://www.tennessee.edu/system/cherokee/>  
<http://utr.tennessee.edu/>

Below are a set of issues and topics that were addressed with responses by Vice-President David Millhorn and discussion in italics:

Given the goal of pursuing Top 25 status for UTK, discuss the role of the UT system initiated research activities in relation to this effort.

*David Millhorn said he has two Vice-Presidential responsibilities, as Chief Operating Officer and Vice-President for Research. Early in the legislative season last year he went to the Governor to look at ways of enhancing the UT-ORNL relationship, fostering greater research and educational connections. At the time Governor Bredesen made a commitment to begin an interdisciplinary degree program between UT and ORNL, the result of which is the newly named CIRE program. He stressed that the UT-ORNL relationship is enhanced and made more sustainable through academic programs such as CIRE.*

Discuss how the UT/ORNL Joint Institutes are being handled relative to the UT System. Is this now totally a UTK responsibility? Where has the UT/Battelle management fee that is supposed to come back to UT been allocated and how is the decision made on this for next year? Wasn't this to be used for Joint Institutes - is it?

*Millhorn stated that the UT system owns those buildings, but much of the space assignments are to UTK entities. He also stated that the center directors report to the UTK chancellor (who has assigned this reporting line to the Vice-Chancellor for Research). The lab gets graded every year, and this determines our fee. The past 4-5 years we have been the highest graded national lab, which yields 3 million for UT, half of which come back to the Knoxville campus for specialized projects, start-up funds, etc. They also hold some back to serve as matching funds for future projects. Millhorn stated that he tends to prioritize large program grants which he feels will have the greatest impact.*

*David Millhorn talked about the EPSCOR program as an example of how the UT system can broker participation by multiple partners. The proposal involves UT, TBR schools and Vanderbilt. The purpose of the grant is to enhance the competitiveness for NSF dollars focused on solar energy while*

*also having programmatic aspects to enhance STEM education. To get the grant UT had to come up with 2 million in matching funds.*

We have heard of complaints about space allocation and charges for the state buildings that are on the ORNL campus. For example, if UT researchers want space in the JIBS building, why must UTK come up with significant funds to pay building charges even though the building was built by the State?

*David Millhorn stated that he has only heard concerns about some shared equipment but not allocations for space. He stated that there can be legitimate concern regarding proper use of the equipment, some of which is very expensive. Gary Saylor is the contact person. India Lane asked about how space is allocated and if we are using it effectively. David Millhorn said they moved the UT Research Foundation to the UT Conference Center to help alleviate space needs. Millhorn used the example of the large animal center on the UT Ag campus as an example of a commitment for research space that was funded by the UT system. There was general discussion of the need to assess allocations of space across the university to maximize effectiveness in relation to the university's mission.*

Is there any long-term plan to move UT forward in attracting major centers from Federal funds? What steps are being taken to pursue USDA Center awards or Homeland Security awards? Similarly there are many calls for NIH Centers that we have expertise in at UTK but to be competitive would have to have sustained links with UTHSC to work. Discuss steps that are being taken by the UT system to help units become successful in attracting these?

*David Millhorn talked about the Department of Defense as a source that we are already tapped into for a contract through the College of Business Administration. Beauvais Lyons asked about NIH-related funding. David Millhorn said that currently 15 million at UTK, and 35 million at UTHSC come from NIH grants. David Millhorn said we should be attracting at least 150 million dollars in NIH funding across the UT system. He said that basic medical science at UTHSC is doing well, but that the clinical side is burdened with health delivery rather than research. He also noted that their compensations structure tends to reward health delivery. Millhorn said he is working to correct this. Toby Boulet linked the issue of greater NIH research to the top 25 aspirations of UTK, and said that this is not really possible without greater linkage between UTK and UTHSC. David Millhorn said these kinds of collaborations need to be driven from the "bottom up." Doug Blaze said he agrees, but said that he thinks that more activities like Organized Research Units that have been established for the UT Knoxville campus could be initiated through the UT system. David Millhorn said that he is seeking to do this now with the UT Medical Center in Knoxville, and to establish a clinical trials infrastructure that will involve UTHSC. The CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Awards) offer a way to help to help build connections. The committee identified a variety of issues that need to be addressed to foster greater success by faculty researchers, including work-life balance for junior faculty, fostering supportive systems of mentoring and collaborations, the need for more resources directed to start-up packages and ways that F&A allocations are used.*

What is the entire status of funding for this Cherokee Farm project? Is there any plan to attract any tenants to the Cherokee Farm? President Petersen gave very explicit remarks to the Board of Trustees and the Alumni several years ago that there was at least one corporate tenant already committed. What happened to this commitment? How will Cherokee Farm be funded if there are no tenants except the one building for Materials Science?

*David Millhorn said there is a lot of work currently being done with site preparation that will last through the summer, with the first building starting in March. He said we are in discussion with a number of private research and development companies but could not publically name them. He said that UT is also working with the Chamber of Commerce. Millhorn said that UT is committed to using the site for research in three areas; energy; biomedical; and environmental/sustainability. The JIAMS (Joint Institute for Advanced Materilas) building will serve as an anchor to these*

activities. Svetlana Zivanovic said that we should have a showcase building to demonstrate utilization of green materials and use of alternative energy sources on the campus. David Millhorn said that all of the buildings will be LEED certified, and there will also be an interpretive center that will address the historic importance of the site for the Cherokee Nation. India Lane asked about the potential of a day-care center on the site. Millhorn said this was not being considered. In response to a question from Beauvais Lyons, he said a small hotel/conference center on the site is still an option.

Toby Boulet said that he looked at the annual reports posted on the UT system research web site, which were only up through 2006. He was looking for information on the size of the system research budget. David Millhorn said that system has very little money, that they essentially work to broker research enterprises that are essentially based on the different campuses.

As it relates to our research enterprise, Svetlana Zivanovic asked about tuition waivers for international graduate students with fellowships/scholarships from their government or other institutions from their country of origin. She stated that these are generally top-notch PhD students, and although we don't need to pay their stipend, the graduate school insists that tuition for these students is at the out-of-state rate. Thus, we end up paying \$18,000 annually for tuition instead of \$7,000 if the student is paid from a grant. Doug Blaze said the same challenge faces the College of Law. The state classification system for students is a factor that needs to be addressed to enhance our graduate and research profile. David Millhorn said in North Carolina they sought other private sources to cover the in-state portion of the tuition. The committee agreed that this is something that should be an issue as part of the top 25 initiative.

3. **Potential Future Meetings for next Semester:**

Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm on February 2, March 9, April 6, 2011.

There was discussion of system-campus issues ahead, including the legislative session, the location of tenure for faculty at UTSI, a progressive state-wide policy on sexual orientation, and conflicts between board and campus policies. Toby Boulet and India Lane said that the UT Faculty Council is meeting monthly by video-conference with the next meeting on January 20th. There was also discussion of organizational structure of the UT system, job descriptions for all system level administrators and future searches for system Vice Presidents. Given the upcoming legislative session, the committee agreed that we'll see if Anthony Haynes can attend our February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

4. **Adjournment** at 5pm