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UT-UTIA Memorandum of Understanding

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Collaborative Academic Arrangement

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

and

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

Academic Programs in Agricultural Sciences, Natural Resources, and Veterinary Medicine

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award baccalaureate, masters and doctorate degrees. This document provides historic background and outlines the relationship between UTK and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), whose faculty provide instruction for disciplines in agricultural sciences, natural resources and veterinary medicine leading to the award of baccalaureate, masters and doctorate degrees. Most of the activities described eliminate the need to duplicate various services for students, faculty and staff since the UTIA and UTK campuses are contiguous and were once one unit.

History

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) began as Blount College in 1794. Over the centuries, UTK became the state's land-grant institution and flagship campus encompassing 11 academic colleges, the Space Institute (Tullahoma), the Graduate School, and University Libraries.

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) traces its roots to 1869 when the University was designated as Tennessee's Federal Land-Grant Institution. In the 1940s, Dr. C.E. Brehm, then director of the Extension Service, was named dean of the College of Agriculture (CASNR's predecessor), merging the two units.ⁱ With the retirement of Dr. Charles Mooers, director of the Experiment station, Brehm assumed that directorship, as well, until being named acting president in 1946 (Dr. Neal Peacock handled the day-to-day administration of resident instruction during this time) and president in 1948, at which time, Dr. John H. McLeod became dean of the college and director of the Experiment Station and Extension Service, until his retirement in 1957. He was followed by Dr. Webster Pendergrass, who also was dean and director of the three units.ⁱⁱ During this time, the Dean of the College of Agriculture was a direct report to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

In 1968, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) was formedⁱⁱⁱ with Pendergrass serving as a vice chancellor for agriculture until 1970 when he became vice president for agriculture.^{iv} It was at this time that the UTIA became a unit administered separate from the Knoxville campus.^v

The UTIA became the administrative unit for CASNR faculty with responsibility for academic programs. The Agricultural Experiment Station and the Extension Service, with their state-wide mission and presence, were the other units within the UTIA. Each of the three units is led by a dean who is a direct report to the Vice President for the UTIA (later retitled Chancellor^{vi}). Faculty with responsibilities for academic programs and agricultural research were organized into departments and the department heads were responsible to the three deans. The CASNR dean retained a reporting line for academic and fiscal responsibility to the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and to the Vice Chancellor of Student Life for matters relating to student conduct and student life. The CASNR budget is allocated by the Office of the Provost.

The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) was established as the fourth unit of the Institute of Agriculture in 1974; the first students were admitted for fall semester, 1976.^{vii} The CVM dean is a direct report, both fiscally and administratively, to the Chancellor of the UTIA and has a reporting line to the Provost and the Dean of the Graduate School for matters relating to graduate and professional student academics and curriculum, and to the Vice Chancellor of Student Life for matters relating to student conduct and student life. The CVM budget was established as a separate budget entity in UTIA. CVM budget requests do not go through the Office of the Provost.

Terms of the Relationship

This document affirms the relationship between UTIA and UTK, dating back to the creation of the Institute of Agriculture. The two entities are located in Knoxville, TN, and are physically contiguous. UTK's regional accreditation includes the academic programs of CASNR and CVM. The relationship between the two entities encompasses a broad array of policies, procedures, programs, facilities, and services. These areas of overlap include academic program governance, faculty governance, and student life.

Students in the academic programs in CASNR and CVM are UTK students: UTK awards all academic degrees. UTK provides academic functions and services relating to academic programs, such as admissions (including transcripts), financial aid, bursar, Honors programs.

In terms of faculty governance, faculty in CASNR and CVM fall under the governance of a *Faculty Handbook* and participate in a Faculty Senate common to UTK and UTIA faculty. They also participate in faculty governance of the curriculum through the UTK Graduate and Undergraduate Councils and serve on any number of university committees. Faculty in those colleges are responsible for accreditation process in the same was a faculty in the other nine colleges.

UTIA manages its faculty hiring, evaluation, tenure and promotion reviews as well as academic programs reviews.

Undergraduate and graduate students fall under the governance of *Hilltopics*, the UTK Student Handbook, and the purview of the Division of Student Life and/or the UTK Graduate School.

UTK also provides a variety of other services, such as Student Health Center, Library, IT, classroom scheduling, custodial services, recreation, equity and diversity, parking, police, etc. UTIA student data are included in UTK data for national databases.

Finally, the Office of the Provost collaborates closely with the UTIA deans, in particular those of CASNR and CVM. The deans are members of the UTK Council of Deans. The Dean of CASNR receives a budget allocation from the Provost to fund instruction in the college and participates in the annual Provost's budget and planning process.

This agreement is affirmed on May 6, 2013.

This agreement is in effect until such time as one of the parties wishes to review. Any modifications to this agreement need to be agreed upon by both the administrations of UTK and UTIA prior to reaffirmation.


Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor
University of Tennessee, Knoxville


Dr. Larry R. Arrington, Chancellor
University of Tennessee Institute of
Agriculture

ⁱ Smith, Horace C. 1999. An Honored Calling: A History of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Lisa Byerly Gary (ed.), Institute of Agriculture, p. 11.

ⁱⁱ Smith, Horace C. 1999. An Honored Calling: A History of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Lisa Byerly Gary (ed.), Institute of Agriculture, pp. 21-22.

ⁱⁱⁱ Smith, Horace C. 1999. An Honored Calling: A History of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Lisa Byerly Gary (ed.), Institute of Agriculture, p. ix.

^{iv} Smith, Horace C. 1999. An Honored Calling: A History of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Lisa Byerly Gary (ed.), Institute of Agriculture, p. 22.

^v At the time of the creation of the University of Tennessee System, the System Chief Executive Officer was titled President, campus CEOs were titled Chancellor, and institute CEOs were titled Vice President.

^{vi} Board of Trustees Minutes, June 24, 2010, p. 15, http://bot.tennessee.edu/minutes/06242010_boardmeetin.pdf, viewed September 19, 2012.

^{vii} The University of Tennessee Record, Graduate Studies, 1977, p. 24, <http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/dlc/catalog/images/g/1977/g.pdf>, viewed September 19, 2012.