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FOR IMMEDIATE USE FROM UT NEWS CENTER (423-974-2225) JB
March 27, 1998

UT Board Meeting April 2 (125)

MARTIN, Tenn. -- A recommendation from University of Tennessee President Joe Johns on for a new chancellor at UT-Martin will be considered here April 2 by the UT Board of Trustees.

Beauchamp Brogan, UT general counsel and secretary to the board of trustees, said the meeting will be held by telephone conference call originating here at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be in the Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Center at UT-Martin.

Dr. Nick Dunagan has been acting chancellor at UT Martin since the retirement in January of Dr. Margaret Perry.

Other items on the agenda include appointment of a trustee to the UT Athletics Board and a resolution honoring the late Tom Elam, Union City attorney and long-time member of the UT board.

Contact: Beauchamp Brogan (423-974-3245)

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News from UT

The University of Tennessee / News Center / 107 Communications Building / Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0315 / (615) 974-2225

FOR IMMEDIATE USE FROM UT NEWS CENTER (423-974-2225) JB
April 2, 1998

Conn Appointed UT-Martin Chancellor (350)

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Dr. Philip W. Conn, president of Dickinson University in North Dakota, was appointed Thursday chancellor of the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Conn's appointment was approved by the UT Board of Trustees on recommendation of UT President Joe Johnson.

He was one of six final candidates for the position, which came open in January with the retirement of Dr. Margaret Perry after 11 years in the post.

'Phil Conn received outstanding evaluations from faculty, staff, students and community leaders,' Johnson said.

'Phil and his wife, Donna, are delightful people. They make friends easily and they will fit comfortably with the UT-Martin campus and West Tennessee community.'

Conn said he shared Johnson's sense that he would fit well at UT-Martin.

'UT-Martin is clearly the type of public, regional institution that I can serve knowledgeably and enthusiastically,' Conn said. 'Its mission and programs are similar to those of the universities where I have succeeded in administrative positions.'

UT Senior Vice President Homer Fisher, who chaired the search advisory committee for Johnson, said Conn has vision, energy and enthusiasm.

'Dr. Conn can continue to build on the fine foundation laid by Margaret Perry, the faculty, staff, students and supporters of UT-Martin,' Fisher said.

The appointment is effective July 1.

Conn, who was reared in Cleveland, Tenn., is the brother of Dr. Paul Conn, president of Lee University, Cleveland.

Conn earned the bachelor of arts degree in biology from Berea College, Berea, Ky., and the master of arts in sociology from UT-Knoxville. He also holds masters and doctoral degrees in public administration from the University of Southern California.

At Dickinson State, Conn was president and professor of business. Prior to Dickinson, he was vice president for university advancement and associate professor of management at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg.


Other positions Conn has held include vice president, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky.; executive director of the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission, Frankfort, Ky.; and director of alumni affairs at Berea College.

Contact: Dr. Joe Johnson (423-974-2141)



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TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Beauchamp E. Brogan 

DATE: March 27, 1998

SUBJECT: Telephone Conference Call Meeting of the Board of Trustees
4:30 p.m. CST (5:30 p.m. EST), Thursday, April 2, 1998
Fulton Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts Center
The University of Tennessee at Martin

Upon call of the Vice Chairman, there will be a special meeting of the Board of Trustees via telephone conference call at 4:30 p.m. CST, Thursday, April 2, 1998 originating from the Fulton Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts Center, The University of Tennessee at Martin..

Items to be considered are listed on the attached agenda.

BEB:ll

Enclosure

cc: Members of the President's Staff w/enclosures

ORDER OF BUSINESS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

4:30 p.m. CST (5:30 p.m. EST)
Thursday, April 2, 1998

Fulton Theatre
Fine and Performing Arts Center
The University of Tennessee, Martin

- A. Roll call.
- B. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Colonel Tom Elam.
- C. Appointment of Trustee to UT Athletics Board.
- C. Approval of Recommendation for Chancellor, The University of Tennessee at Martin.
- D. Other business.

Resolution

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

WHEREAS, Tom French Elam was born May 27, 1909, in Union City, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he entered the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1927, and as a student commenced several lifelong passions: for UT athletics (serving as a manager on General Robert R. Neyland's football team), for the military (enrolling in the ROTC program), for the law (which was to become his profession) and for UT (which he served for the rest of his life); and

WHEREAS he earned two degrees—the bachelor's in history in 1931 and a law degree in 1934, and returned to his native Union City to begin a distinguished law practice; and

WHEREAS, he interrupted his law practice to serve with distinction in World War II, first at the War Department in Washington, D.C., then in the Pacific, and achieved the rank of colonel; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, he married the former Kathleen Hyneman of Corinth, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, as a partner in Elam, Glasgow and Acree in Union City he continued to distinguish himself in the practice of law, being named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a life member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference; and

WHEREAS, he was very successful in business, serving as president of the former Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Union City, board member or chair of three banks and president of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, he proudly served as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army; and

WHEREAS, he was an elder and chairman of the board of First Christian Church of Union City; and

WHEREAS, in 1951 he became a member of the UT Athletics Board and developed a deep commitment to UT athletics, seldom missing a Volunteer football game and seeing his name emblazoned on the press box at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville as well as on the physical education complex at UT Martin; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed in 1956 to the UT Board of Trustees; serving the Board as vice chairman from 1975 to 1979 and chairing its executive committee; and

WHEREAS, his strong loyalty to and deep affection for the University was exemplary, and he and Mrs. Elam were generous supporters of University programs including the UTK athletics program and programs at the Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, and Memphis campuses, as well as at the College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Tom was so closely identified with the University that the Tennessee General Assembly took the unprecedented step in 1996 of extending his term on the UT Board of Trustees for life, with the provision that should the position become vacant it would not be refilled; and

WHEREAS, he passed away March 9, 1998, ending a 42-year tenure as a member of the Board of Trustees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees thanks Tom French Elam for the decades of loyalty, devotion, and hard work that he gave to the University and the unparalleled commitment that he exhibited for his alma mater and extends its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Elam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and that a copy be sent to Mrs. Elam.



President

ATTEST: _____
Secretary



INTRODUCTIONS IN ORDER — University of Tennessee at Martin history professor Catherine Alice Carls meets with newly appointed chancellor Philip Conn Thursday at a reception following his appointment by the UT Board of Trustees. Conn,

president of Dickinson State University in North Dakota, replaces Margaret Perry, who retired this year after 11 years at the post. His appointment is effective July 1.

Resolution honors the late Tom Elam

In addition to welcoming a new face, the UT Board of Trustees remembered an old friend Thursday evening.

At a meeting conducted at UTM, the board unanimously approved a resolution honoring the late Col. Tom Elam.

The resolution recognized the Union City native's service to UT and thanked him for "the decades of loyalty, devotion and hard work that he gave to the university and the unparalleled commitment that he exhibited for his alma mater..."

Philip Conn, who was appointed UTM's next chancellor at the meeting, remembered Elam's contributions to the UT system and said he regrets missing the opportunity to work with him.

"A man who's unassuming,

(See Page 2, Col. 5)

Resolution...

(Continued from Page One)

down to Earth, supportive and at the same time has distinguished himself in so many areas — what a tremendous person, what a giant for West Tennessee," Conn said. "I looked forward to working with him and regret that's not going to be possible."

Conn said he knew Elam mainly by reputation and shared many of his same interests and values.

"It so happens that much of what he represented are things I hold

dear as values," he said. "Number one, he believed strongly in education as I do. Number two, he was an attorney, and I am very interested in the study of law; I have a son who is in law school now.

"His involvement in the military is important to me; I have a son whose a Second Lieutenant in the Army in Germany right now. And of course his enthusiasm for the University of Tennessee at Martin and the entire system pleased me."

The Board of Trustees also appointed Johnnie Amonette of Memphis to fill Elam's vacancy on the UT Athletics Board.

UTM appointee New chancellor feels right at home

By BRIAN HOLLAND
Messenger Staff Reporter

Philip Conn finally has a job at a place where people won't ask him about his "funny accent."

A native southerner, the president of Dickinson State University in North Dakota was appointed Thursday as the next chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"I think it's going to fit very well," Conn said of his appointment as top administrator at UTM. "I'll feel at home here: I already do. As a matter of fact, this will be the first job in many jobs where people won't ask me, 'Where did you get that strange accent.'"

Conn, 56, will replace Margaret Perry, who retired this year after 11 years at the post. His appointment will be effective July 1.

His appointment was approved unanimously by the UT Board of Trustees during a conference call conducted at UTM's Fine Arts Auditorium. Many UTM faculty and administrators, as well as students and community members, were present.

UT President Joe Johnson recommended Conn after an eight-month search process. Johnson said Conn stood apart from other candidates because of his "breadth of experience, success in other jobs and his ability to relate so well to all kinds of people."

"We've all told him following Margaret Perry will be a chal-

lenge, but I think Phil Conn can do it well," he said.

His last two jobs — four years at Dickinson State University and a nine-year stint as vice president for university advancement at Central Missouri State University — have been far from his native south. He was born in Alabama, grew up in Cleveland, Tenn., and has many ties to the state.

(See Page 2, Col. 5)

"We are very excited about moving back south," said his wife, Donna, a native of Berea, Ky. "We feel like we're coming home. We had truly the most genuine welcome here when we came to interview. We are thrilled and look forward to July 1. I'm ready to go home and pack."

In addition to spending much of his childhood in Cleveland, located near Chattanooga, Conn received a master's degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. His brother, Paul, is president of Lee University in Cleveland.

Two things Conn said he will work to emphasize early in his tenure are increasing UTM's "positive visibility" and providing more out-of-classroom learning experiences for students.

"An institution this strong needs a lot of what I call positive visibility," he said. "The programs are here. To give them exposure, to give them greater visibility, is something I intend to do."

UTM should also "strongly involve students in what are called learning experiences outside the classroom such as volunteerism and internships."

Conn earned master of arts and doctorate degrees in public administration at the University of Southern California. Other positions he has held include vice president of Morehead State University, executive director of the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission and director of alumni affairs at Berea College.

21-003
DRESDEN TN
SE. DRESDEN ENTERPRISE
04/15/98

UT Martin Professors earn ⁸⁸ Outstanding Teacher Awards

Drs. Deborah Chapman and Jerald Ogg, University of Tennessee at Martin professor, have earned the 1997-98 UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Awards.

Chapman, an associate professor in the department of health and human performance, has been at UT Martin three years.

Ogg, chairman of the department of communications and professor, has been at UT Martin 11 years. He is also president-elect of the faculty senate.

"The acting chancellor (Nick

Dunagan) called and left a message on my machine, and the first thing I thought was 'what did I do now,'" Chapman said. "I was really surprised when he told me I had won."

For Chapman the award was unexpected because she has only been at UT Martin for three years and this award comes from nominations from students and alumni. "I consider this a great honor," she said. "It's a challenge now to do an even better job."

Among the classes Chapman, teaches are health and health promo-

tions. "I like to get to know my students, that's why I am in teaching," Chapman said. Because Chapman teaches classes that almost all college students have an interest in, it's easy to see why she gets along with students. "I'm very laid back and personable," she said.

Ogg also has a knack for getting along with students, but it's his background that attracts students to his classes more than it is the subject matter.

"The most exciting part of winning this award for me is knowing that it all started with the outstanding teachers I had here as an undergraduate, many of whom I am now proud to count as colleagues," Ogg said.

Ogg teaches communications law, ethics, public relations and advertising. He has also advised both the campus newspaper, The Pacer, for which he had served as editor while a student, and the yearbook, The Spirit. In 1997, he was named chair of the department of communications.

Two teachers are chosen each year from each of the five UT campuses. Any teacher who wins is ineligible to receive the award again for 10 years.

Chapman and Ogg were recognized at UT Martin's annual Honors Day Program, Sunday, April 5. They will also be honored at a banquet, June 26, in Knoxville.



Dr. Jerald Ogg



Dr. Deborah Chapman

Conn chosen as new chancellor at UTM

From staff, AP and UT sources

The University of Tennessee board of trustees Thursday appointed Dr. Philip W. Conn as new chancellor of its Martin campus.

His appointment was approved in a telephone conference call meeting of the trustees, before an audience in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theater on the UTM campus.

UT president Joe Johnson made the final recommendation after a search committee chose three finalists from six that were actually interviewed on campus. More than 200 applications for the position had originally been received and reviewed by a search committee appointed by Johnson.

Conn, president of Dickinson University in North Dakota, replaces Margaret Perry who retired in January after 11 years at the post.

"Phil Conn received outstanding evaluations from faculty, staff, students and community leaders," Johnson said Thursday afternoon. "He and his wife, Donna, are

Please see Page 5
UTM



—Staff photo by Bill McCutcheon

New University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Philip Conn (right) listens as UT president Joe Johnson comments after announcing the appointment at a trustees' meeting Thursday afternoon.

Also at the table were (from left) Barbara Castleman, a trustee from Martin, and Beauchamp Brogan, UT general counsel and board secretary.

UTM

Continued from Page 1

delightful people. They make friends easily and they will fit comfortably with the UT Martin campus and West Tennessee community."

"UT Martin is clearly the type of public, regional institution that I can serve knowledgeably and enthusiastically," Conn said.

"Its mission and programs are similar to those of the universities where I have succeeded in administrative positions."

UT senior vice president Homer Fisher, who chaired the search advisory committee for Johnson, said Conn has vision, energy and enthusiasm.

"Doctor Conn can continue to build on the fine foundation laid by Margaret Perry, the faculty, staff, students and supporters of UT Martin," Fisher said.

The appointment is effective July 1.

In off-the-cuff remarks following the announcement, Conn also revealed a sense of humor.

"It's nice to travel into spring, as not one of the thirteen trees in North Dakota had even a single leaf showing when we left," he said.

Conn, who was reared in Cleveland, Tenn., is the brother of Dr. Paul Conn, president of Lec University there. He earned his bachelor's

degree in biology from Berea (Ky.) College and his master's in sociology from UT Knoxville. He also holds master's and doctoral degrees in public administration from the University of Southern California.

At Dickinson State, Conn was president and professor of business. Prior to Dickinson, he was vice president for university advancement and associate professor of management at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg.

Other positions Conn has held include vice president at Morehead (Ky.) State University; executive director of the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission in Frankfort; and director of alumni affairs at Berea College.

In other action Thursday afternoon, the board of trustees adopted a resolution honoring the late Col. Tom Elam, longtime UT trustee, and appointed a successor to Elam on the UT Athletics Board. Johnnie Amonette, trustee from Memphis, becomes the only current female on that board — a point noted by Johnson after the vote.

"With the recent success of the Lady Vols, Lady Skyhawks and Pat Head Summitt, who began her college career here at UTM, I think it is more than appropriate that a woman be the appointee to the athletics board," Johnson said.

SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT DIFFERENCES

Here are some examples of the difference in assignments depending on whether a student is taking either a standard course or honors course. In some classes such as math, the standard textbooks and honors textbooks are different. In other classes, such as English, the same textbooks are used but the assignments generally are different.

STANDARD SEVENTH-GRADE MATH*

■ The city spent \$4,444,800 improving 2.4 miles of roadway. How much did the city spend per mile?

■ Jon built a table in 8½ hours. If he wanted to earn \$12.50 per hour for his time and his materials cost \$48.75, how much should he charge for the table?

HONORS SEVENTH-GRADE MATH**

■ Archie Alexander, one of the first African-American technicians to be internationally famous, was an outstanding structural engineer. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1912, he studied bridge design at the University of London. He then became a specialist in the design of construction of concrete and steel bridge spans. Geometry played a very important role in his work. Find out two ways that geometry is used in the design and construction of bridges.

STANDARD SPANISH I

■ Draw a house plan or a dream home using Spanish words

HONORS SPANISH I

■ Complete a yearlong scrapbook project titled: Spanish in Our Lives, by collecting 10 articles in current newspapers and magazines that deal with 10 different Hispanic countries, writing two short biographical sketches of two famous Hispanics and finding 10 different items that have some Spanish in them like greeting cards, canning labels, boarding passes, souvenirs or hotel room signs.

STANDARD SENIOR ENGLISH

■ Give a written report on one of the following topics: Shakespearean Globe theater, the Elizabethan period or the history of drama.

HONORS SENIOR ENGLISH

■ Create a Globe Theater by making a model or drawing.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH

■ Write an essay on the theme of guilt and its effect on Lady MacBeth.

Sources:

*Houghton Mifflin Co.'s *Mathematical Connections*, a book for standard math

**MacMillan/McGraw-Hill's *Mathematics in Action*, a book for honors math

From Page A1

Honors

standard course with the honors label attached to it."

Last year, she said, "I had an (honors) English class that wasn't as challenging as the standard class. They did more work, more projects and read more books than we did. It really just depends on the teacher."

Stout said that although she didn't mind being in the easier course at the time, it came back to haunt her. "Now I see where it kind of hurt me. ... This year, I'm having to catch up and read a lot of books I should have read last year," she said.

The city schools' enrollment is approximately 112,000. Currently, 11,471 students in grades 7-12 in 46 city schools are taking at least one honors course, and if they do well in them they can boost their overall GPAs because honors courses have higher value when GPA is calculated.

What school officials have concluded, however, is some honors courses really aren't, and the unjustified boost they give some GPAs amounts to "grade inflation."

Memphis City Schools offer three types of courses: standard, honors and advanced placement (AP).

Standard courses offer basic academic instruction, honors courses are meant to be quicker-paced and more intellectually challenging, and advanced-placement courses are equivalent to college-level courses and are set by the College Board.

The trouble with some Memphis honors courses surfaced when the state required all school systems to adopt a four-digit coding system to distinguish standard courses from honors and advanced-placement courses.

Gloria Tuggle, the coordinator of the school district's Office of Accountability, said she was surprised to find 170 honors courses being offered, some of them in what she regarded as dubious subjects. Principals voluntarily removed the honors label from 37 courses, including some offered in elementary school, said Tuggle.

Since the city's optional schools program began in the mid-1970s, individual schools — not the central administration — have decided whether a particular course would be offered as standard or honors.

And with the competition that ensued among optional and traditional schools, she said, the pressure was on to offer more honors courses to attract the most motivated students.

Carolyn Phipps, an English teacher at Wooddale High, said the proliferation of honors courses has led to grade inflation.

"I remember when I was at another school we had a kid who was valedictorian who had taken honors courses. He made a 10 on his ACT. I have a problem with that," she said. The maximum composite score is 36. The average ACT score among Memphis City Schools students in 1997 was 17.2.

Even some students acknowledge some honors courses don't live up to their billing. Overton High senior Sheriessé Cox, enrolled in two honors courses this year, said she discovered that while comparing notes with a friend in the standard version of one of her honors classes.

Cox said she found both were doing the same work, but because of the weighted grades given to those in honors classes, Cox's A is worth five points toward her GPA while her friend's A is worth only four.

By having a weighted grade-point average, students who take advanced courses improve their chances of gaining admission into better colleges and winning scholarships.

No matter what the school board does with its honors policy, White Station High principal Wanda Winnette says individual teachers will make the difference.

"I've got some (honors) teachers that are easier than they should be, and there's some that are tougher," she said. The barometer Winnette uses at White Station is what she hears from former students who've gone on to college: "We hear repeatedly how well-prepared they were. Sometimes I wonder if we're not being too hard if college is easy when they get there."

Gara Yeager, a veteran Spanish teacher at White Station High, wants the board to



Gara Yeager

leave true honors courses alone, including her first-year honors foreign language classes.

The faster pace, the higher expectations and the tougher work deserve the honors label, she said. She

fears if honors introductory foreign language courses are eliminated it may impact the number of students who take AP Spanish as seniors.

"Why should we not have it because some school is not holding up their end?" Yeager said. "We've got a good program at White Station. We don't need to let it get by."

Persuading school board members to change the district's policy on honors courses may be no easy task. Several board members balked at the idea when it surfaced in early March. Others said they wanted more information.

The meeting Monday starts at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the rear of the central office at 2597 Avery.

Rather than downgrading honors classes for the upcoming school year, board member Mitchell would like the administration to develop the policy and guidelines first and then let schools try to meet those standards.

"If they don't, then strike the title 'honors,'" said Mitchell.

Still, Tuggle insists there must be a standard so students aren't cheated.

"We have some students who come back from college and say their honors courses were just a mockery. Other students say their honors courses are what helped them get through college," she said. "We have a high mobility rate in this city. We ought to ensure English I at Sheffield has the same rigor as English I at Ridgeway."

To reach Lela Garlington, call 529-2349 or E-mail: garlington@gomemphis.com