



9-28-2009

Faculty Senate - September 28, 2009 University System Relations

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate - September 28, 2009 University System Relations" (2009). *Minutes, Senate Committee Meetings*.
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**University System Relations Committee Meeting
September 28, 2009, University Center Chickasaw (218), 2:00PM**

MINUTES

Members: Beauvais Lyons (Chair), David Atkins, Greer Fox, Russel Hirst, John Nolt, Candace White, John Lounsbury

Not Present: Svetlana Zivanovic, NCAA Representative (until filled)

Others Present: Vice-President David Millhorn, Vice President Joe DiPietro and the Chair of the Research Council Ken Stephenson.

1. Approval of the Minutes from August 31, 2009. Approved with no changes.
2. Discussion of Planning and Development of Cherokee Farm with Vice-President David Millhorn, Vice President Joe DiPietro and the Chair of the Research Council Ken Stephenson. Two items were sent in advance of the meeting: (1) David Millhorn provided a report focusing on architectural and design planning for the Cherokee Farm and (2) Beauvais Lyons sent a February 2008 report compiled by Scott Simmons for the Faculty Senate on University Research Parks. This is posted at:
http://web.utk.edu/~senate/docs/2009-10/University_Research_Parks.pdf

David Millhorn talked about the plans for the campus that will employ 77 acres for buildings near the top of the hill – and try to save all of the old oak trees. Efforts will be made to retain the beauty of the land. The intent is to build a multi-use interdisciplinary research park. One of his major concerns is how to team researchers to address problems. He has met with residents in Sequoyah Hills, the City of Knoxville, TDOT, Chamber of Commerce, etc. in developing the project.

A Steering Committee exists for Cherokee farm that has included John Nolt. The development guidelines prepared by Gresham, Smith and Partners (<http://www.gspnet.com/>). The first building will be the Joint Institute of Advanced Materials Science (JIAMS). An RFP will go out for the work on the site and the new building by the end of November. Construction could start as early as March or April 2010. Because of the economy David Millhorn indicated that it is a great climate to attract bids.

Joe Dipietro said that the dairy farm is being relocated to Blount County. They were also involved in the greenway plan. Ken Stephenson knows that some members of the Research Council have attended forums related to the planning of Cherokee Park but it has not been an agenda item for the Council.

Discussion of Cherokee Farm addressed the following issues:

Sustainability: There was some discussion of sustainable guidelines, particularly passive solar and geothermal for the JIAMS building? David Millhorn said that JIAMS presents special problems due to the heat generated through their work. Instead they will add active and passive solar. He said that science buildings are hard to address in terms of sustainability because of the need to secure some of the research spaces, or to change the air at a certain rate.

Funding: There was discussion of any business plan for the project, and what is the calendar for return on any investment. Concern was expressed as to how we define the success of a research park? With regard to recent funding, David Millhorn said that the state had committed \$32 million to develop the site with \$10 million for the JIAMS Building to match a \$20 million in federal funds. He said he projected the completed campus would be about 1.8 to 2 million square feet, which will cost about \$600 million total over 10-15 years. He also said that we do not want to be in competition with the state for capital dollars, but that there will need to be a mix of revenue sources. There was concern whether this is realistic in the current economic climate? David Millhorn said that more resources are being invested in translational research and that the university needs to position itself to generate revenue from this forms of funded research. There was some discussion about whether the university has a good track record in generating revenue from patents and other forms of technology transfer. David Millhorn said that this is something we need to improve. He indicated that UT is looking at what areas will be growth areas for future research – energy, health care, and environmental and climate research. Cases in the Senate Research Park Study were discussed. Millhorn said that as a start-up, Cherokee Farms Campus would be attractive due to its proximity to the national lab, the hospital, the Vet School and the university. David Millhorn also stated that the UTK campus would be able to take best advantage of the research park. In addition, the UT Research Foundation will play a role in protecting intellectual property.

Connections to the Academic Mission of the University: It was noted that at present there is a huge difference in culture between ORNL and UT, and would be an even greater challenge with private companies and their relationship to the academic mission of the university. It was noted that many faculty come to the university to pursue pure and not applied research. How to address the conflict in cultures will be an important challenge. It was noted that just putting people in proximity with one another would not necessarily ensure collaboration. The Senate Research Park study does indicate that the research and academic culture divide is best addressed through mixed use of buildings. Concern was expressed regarding the nature of the faculty appointments, and whether they come from hard or soft funds. Joe DiPietro said the culture would evolve as the rewards system changes.

David Millhorn talked about his experience at the University of Cincinnati and how faculty who were first resistant to a new research initiative quickly became engaged in the enterprise as they saw it succeed. There was concern expressed regarding how the teaching needs of departments would be met as faculty become engaged in Cherokee farm campus projects. David Millhorn said that their time would be bought out, and as their research labs move to Cherokee Farm their home departments would be able to expand their facilities. How Cherokee Farm serves as a resource for students was also a topic of discussion – and the challenges of meeting academic program needs in the context of proprietary research. Concern was expressed that faculty should be setting the intellectual agenda for the research. David Millhorn said that Cherokee Park would only be one aspect of the research done at the university and that many faculty will be involved in important research that does not take place at Cherokee farm.

Additional Items: David Millhorn said there have been no major changes in the Cherokee Farm planning and conception despite all that has transpired about campus/system issues. Also, there still seems to be hope that the UT Health Sciences Center would be involved in Cherokee Farm through UT Hospital. UT is currently in negotiations with potential private sector partnerships.

It was evident from the discussion that the development of Cherokee farm is a work in progress. Making sure that faculty are part of the planning process is important to ensuring the future success of the park. It was recommended that David Millhorn meet in the near future with the Research Council and that an effort be made to keep lines of communication open with the University System Relations Committee.

3. Setting the agenda for the November 2nd meeting. The question of university system reorganization needs to be addressed by the committee. In this context Anthony Haynes and Hank Dye have accepted our invitation to attend our November 2nd meeting. The agenda will concern legislative relations and the state budget picture for next year.
4. Adjournment at 3:15pm