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Title Change of head of Institute of Agriculture (UTK Notification)

University of Tennessee Knoxville

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VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

May 6, 2011

Dr. Belle Wheelan
President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
bwheelan@sacscoc.org

RE: Substantive Changes at The University of Tennessee

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Please consider this letter notification from The University of Tennessee of substantive changes at the institution. The University of Tennessee recently elected a new President, Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro, and I assumed the position of Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success in the fall of 2010. As Interim Vice President, I am the SACS liaison for The University of Tennessee, succeeding Dr. Bonnie Yegidis, who left the University last summer.

Because of the transition in leadership, I am submitting these changes to ensure the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has received all the necessary documentation from The University of Tennessee. It is possible that SACS has been informed previously of some or all of these changes.

1. Shift in reporting of Men's and Women's Athletics Programs

In 2010, Interim President Dr. Jan Simek charged a task force to review the administrative structure to determine the best and most logical alignment between the Men's and Women's Athletic programs at The University of Tennessee. The task force, composed of both athletic directors, trustees, students, faculty and staff, ultimately recommended UT Athletics should report to the Chancellor of UT Knoxville. Several factors were considered in making this recommendation.

- No other BCS athletics department reports to a state-wide administration.
- The provost of UT Knoxville oversees the admissions, enrollment, financial aid, and course registration for UT Knoxville's 500-plus athletes.
- The provost supervises those who hear academic dismissal cases and work in the Thornton Center for student-athletic academic advising.
- Two full-time employees in the UT Knoxville Office of the Registrar devote 100 percent of their time tracking student-athlete academic eligibility.
- All judicial affairs cases involving student-athletes are administered by the UT Knoxville Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
- Finance and administration daily operations of athletics are supervised and performed by UT Knoxville administrators.
- The operation of athletic facilities is directed by the UT Knoxville Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration.

- The UT Athletics Department budget is imbedded in the UT Knoxville budget. The Knoxville campus is responsible for the financial obligations of men's and women's athletics and any budget deficits that were to occur in the athletic departments are the responsibility of the campus.
- Transfer of athletics to the Knoxville campus would streamline various fiscal reporting requirements and eliminate duplication of effort and confusion.
- The UT Knoxville Faculty Senate expressed strong support for moving the reporting line to UT Knoxville.
- The UT Knoxville Chancellor signaled his clear support for the move, citing that the current reporting line prevented him from attending regularly scheduled meetings of the SEC chief executive officers, all of whom are campus leaders.
- Athletic directors would benefit from regular meetings with campus officials to hear the concerns of campus leaders and to lend their experience and expertise to discussions of campus governance.

The task force report stressed that transfer of the reporting line should not alter the fact that the President of the UT System is ultimately in charge of all the campuses and their officers.

President Simek accepted the task force recommendation and proposed it to the UT Board of Trustees, who approved the reporting change in June 2010. Organizational charts depicting the changes are attached. (Attachments 1A and 1B)

2. Shift in Reporting of The University of Tennessee Space Institute

The University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) is a graduate degree unit of The University of Tennessee. Faculty at UTSI are members of an academic department at UT Knoxville and UTSI faculty also serve on the UT Knoxville Faculty Senate. Until recently, UTSI was headed by a Vice President who reported to the President. The Vice President left to assume another position, and the administrative structure was studied to determine the best and most logical fit. It was determined that UTSI should be headed by a Chief Operating Officer who should report to the Chancellor of UT Knoxville. The change, endorsed by the leadership of UT Knoxville, Chancellor and the President, was approved by the UT Board of Trustees in June 2010. (Attachment 2)

3. Realignment of the Ph.D. Program in Audiology and Speech Pathology

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology was recommended for phased closure by UT Knoxville in response to an \$11 million budget cut in 2008-2009. However, working together, UT Knoxville and the UT Health Science Center developed a mutually satisfactory solution that allowed the program to remain open. Historically, the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology at The University was housed administratively within the College of Arts and Sciences at UT Knoxville. In 2009, rather than close the program, the Department was moved administratively to the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center (UTHSC) and tuition and clinical rates will be aligned with other health science programs, thus easing the strain on the budget.

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Undergraduate students who declared their majors in audiology and speech pathology by August 2010 are completing their program. After 2010, all courses will continue to be offered through UT Knoxville's College of Education, Health and Human Services, and students will be able to earn a degree in special education with an emphasis on communication sciences and disorders. Students can also take these courses as prerequisites to graduate work or as components of other majors.

The graduate degree programs offered by the department were transferred to the College of Allied Health at UTHSC. The transfer of the graduate programs advances the strategic priorities of both UTHSC and UT Knoxville. These graduate programs are an outstanding fit with the mission and focus of the College of Allied Health Sciences and will benefit from the current infrastructure there that supports clinical education research. This move will continue to enhance the state of Tennessee by providing graduate students who are critically needed to service the state and its citizens and by providing access to low cost clinical services by the students in the clinical educational program.

No curricular changes were made to the graduate programs. The master's degree designation was changed from M.A. to M.S., which is appropriate to the health sciences disciplines. Information regarding the transition was posted on UT Knoxville and UTHSC websites and students received written notification of the change.

The transition had minimal impact on faculty. Faculty report to their department head and Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Physically, the faculty, staff and students remain in Knoxville on the campus of UT Knoxville. UT Knoxville agreed to continue to provide space, utilities, custodial services and routine maintenance at no cost to UTHSC. Any renovations are handled by UT Knoxville with UTHSC assuming financial responsibility. UTHSC will bear the cost of any growth space, including utilities, custodial services and maintenance. Graduate students are provided with UT Knoxville student ID cards and have full access to the programs and services of UT Knoxville, including parking, housing, and food services. Financial Aid is handled through UTHSC. Students who had graduate assistantships in other departments at UT Knoxville retained their existing appointments and were not negatively impacted.

This transition was agreed to by UT Knoxville and UTHSC and was approved by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

4. Closing of MSW Course Offerings in Memphis, Tennessee

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work offers the BSSW, MSSW and PhD programs throughout the state and maintains a physical presence in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis.

In spring 2008, all academic units at The University of Tennessee were instructed to prepare for a significant permanent base budget reduction. As the College of Social Work sought to cut costs, several factors were taken into account.

- The University of Memphis had notified the Council on Social Work Education that they were planning to develop and implement an MSW program.

- The UT MSSW program in Memphis had a long tradition of accepting students from Arkansas under the joint Academic Common Market agreement between Arkansas and Tennessee. In 2007 Arkansas discontinued their Academic Common Market agreement with Tennessee and the number of applicants from Arkansas plummeted.
- UT enrolled a substantial number of students from Mississippi. At approximately the same time, The University of Mississippi (just across the state line from Memphis) developed and began offering an MSW program.
- Union University in Jackson, Tennessee (about 45 minutes from Memphis) began offering an MSW program.

As applications to the UT Memphis MSSW program declined, it became apparent that the Memphis area could not sustain two master's in social work programs.

The College of Social Work, with approval of the campus and system leadership and the Board of Trustees, moved to consolidate the UT College of Social Work Memphis faculty and resources into the Nashville and Knoxville programs and discontinue offering the MSSW at the Memphis site. The College of Social Work will continue to offer the MSSW program to the Memphis area through the distance education MSSW program.

5. Title Change of Head of Institute of Agriculture

Until June, 2010, the chief executive officer of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture held the title of Vice President. The duties of the Vice President for Agriculture include chief administrative oversight of campus based academic programs and statewide outreach and research programs. Responsibilities include planning, implementing, and leading strong, progressive research, teaching, and extension programs. Components of the Institute of Agriculture include UT Extension, the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the spring of 2010, a request was made by Interim President Jan Simek to the Board of Trustees to change the title of the head of the Institute of Agriculture from Vice President to Chancellor.

Justifications for the title change include:

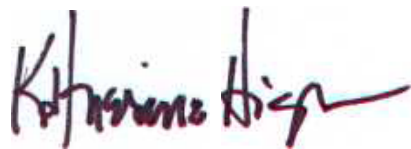
- The duties of the Vice President for Agriculture are in large measure identical to those holding the title Chancellor (see *Responsibilities Matrix* Attachment 5A).
- A change in title will eliminate any possible ambiguity about the authority of the Vice President for Agriculture to make decisions in comparison to those holding the title of Chancellor. Problematic from time to time are those decisions regarding oversight of academic programs and policies governing academic freedom, responsibilities, and tenure of faculty.
- A change in title will provide greater focus regarding the duties of the Vice President for Agriculture regarding campus and academic programs.
- The proposed change of title from Vice President for Agriculture to Chancellor of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture would add needed clarity regarding the position's authority.
- The title change is in better alignment with the duties and role of the position.

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The Trusteeship Committee of the UT Board of Trustees approved a Bylaws amendment changing the title of the head of the Institute of Agriculture from Vice President to Chancellor. The Committee directed that the record reflect its intention that this is a nominal change and should not be construed to authorize the creation of a separate infrastructure or otherwise change the existing operational relationship between the Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville. On June 24, 2010, the full Board of Trustees approved the Bylaws change. (Attachments 5B and 5C)

I trust this letter satisfies the responsibility of The University of Tennessee to notify the Association of substantive changes. Please contact me at khigh@tennessee.edu should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

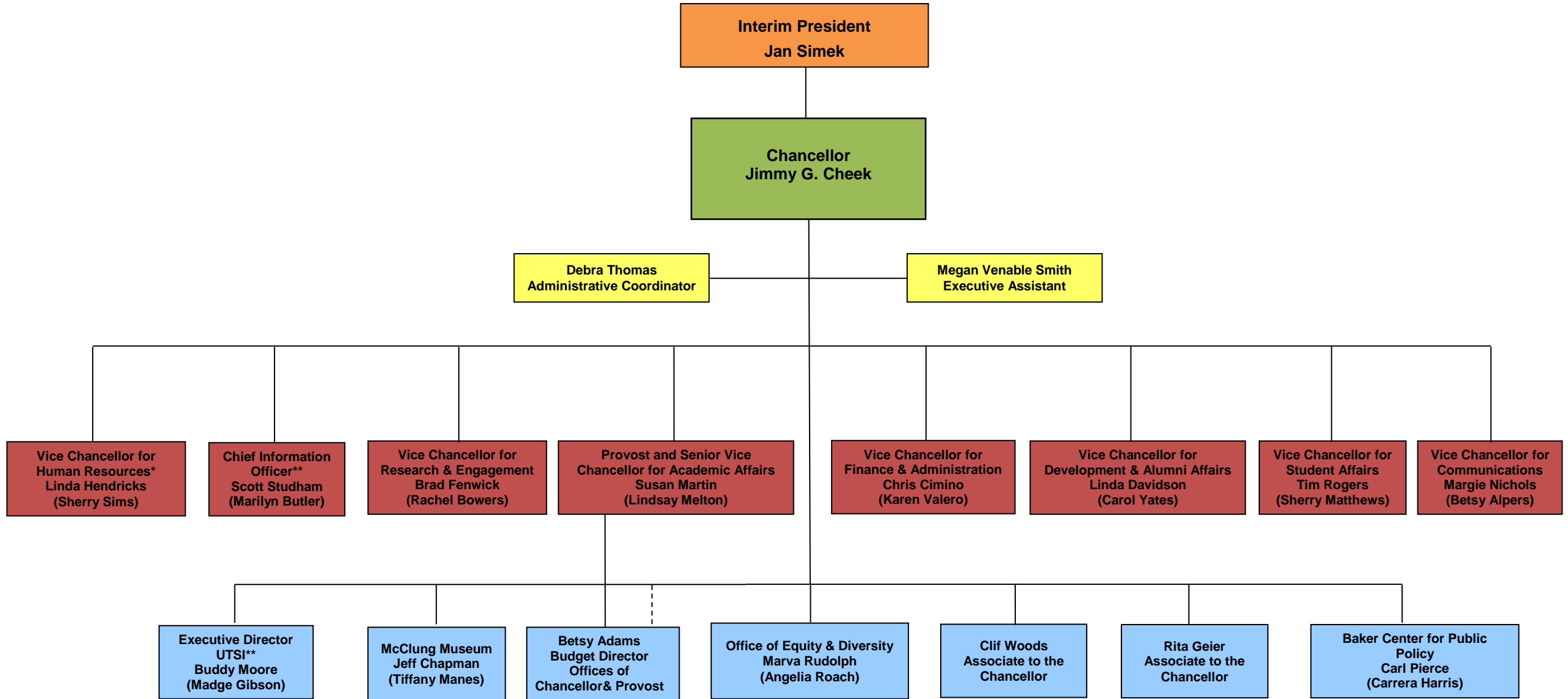
A handwritten signature in dark red ink, appearing to read "Katherine N. High". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Katherine N. High, Ed.D.
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success

C: Dr. Steven Sheeley (ssheeley@sacscoc.org)
President Joseph A. DiPietro
Chancellor Jimmy Cheek
Interim Chancellor Buddy Mitchell
Chancellor Steve Schwab
Provost Susan Martin
Vice Chancellor Cheryl Scheid
Assistant Vice Chancellor Mary Albrecht

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Office of the Chancellor

UT Knoxville Organizational Chart prior to reorganization.



*also reports to the UT System President

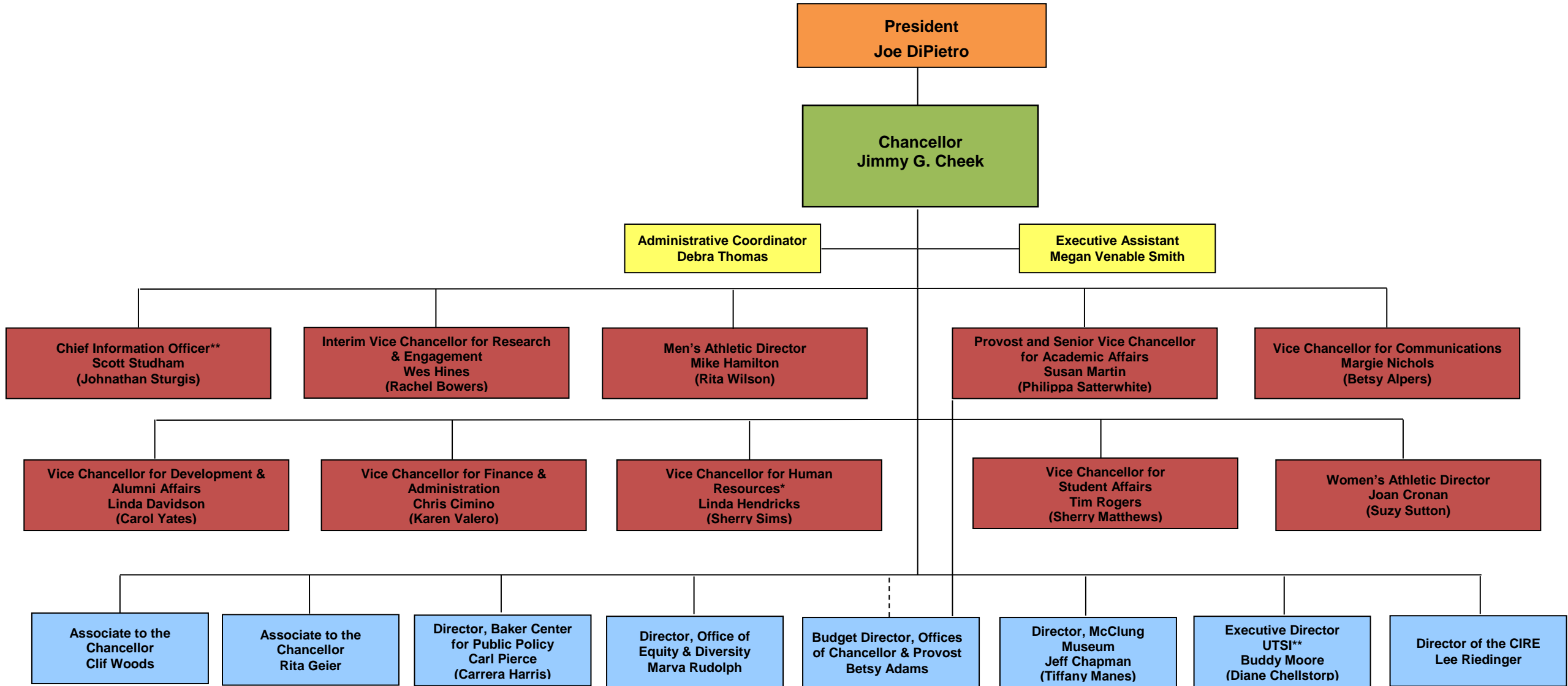
**also reports to the Executive Vice President

February 9, 2011

Attachment 1B


The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Office of the Chancellor

UT Knoxville Organizational chart after athletics
administrative reporting changed.



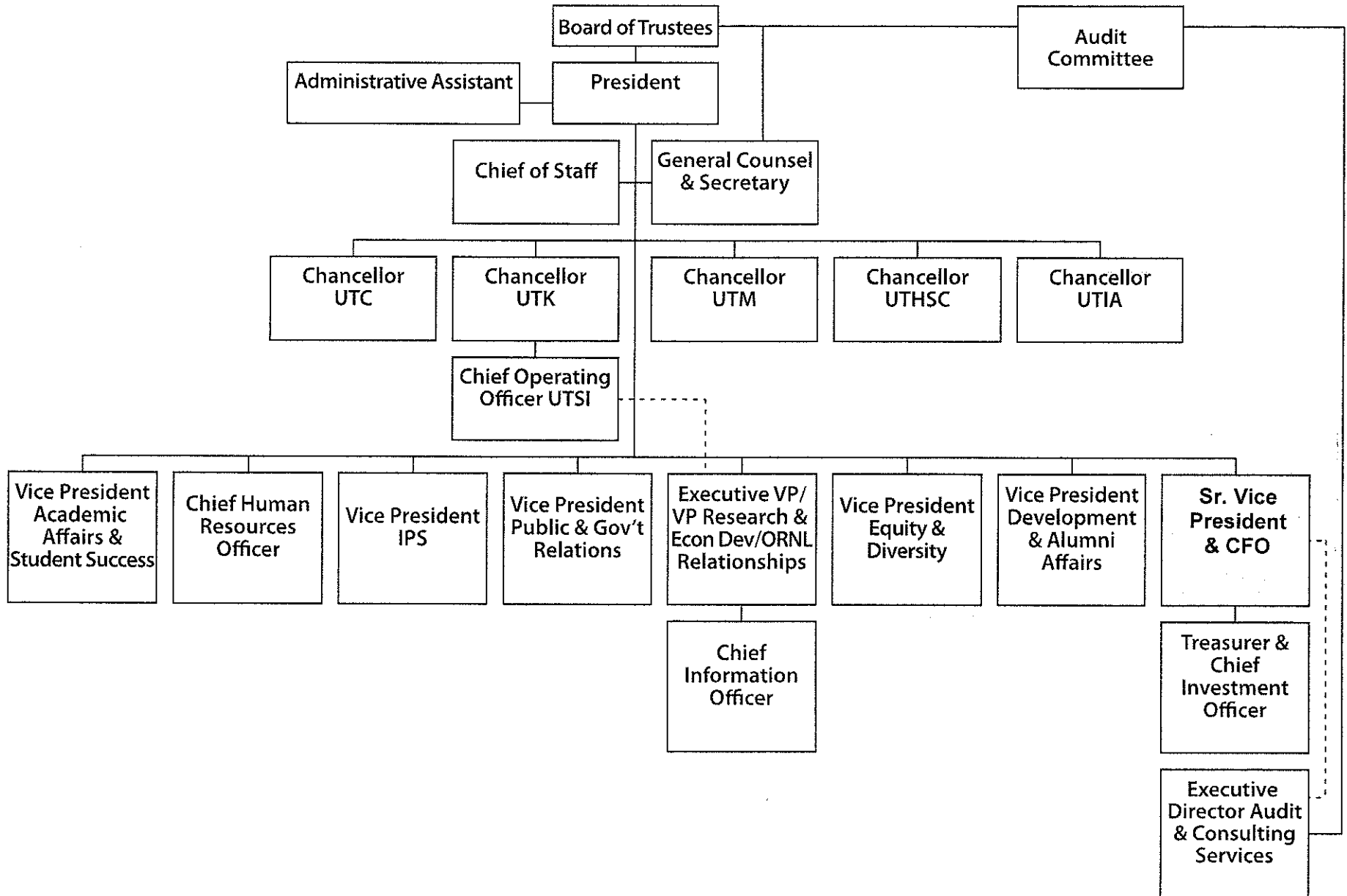
*also reports to the UT System President

**also reports to the Executive Vice President

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 

May 2010

UT Organizational Chart after UTSI was reorganized to report to UTK



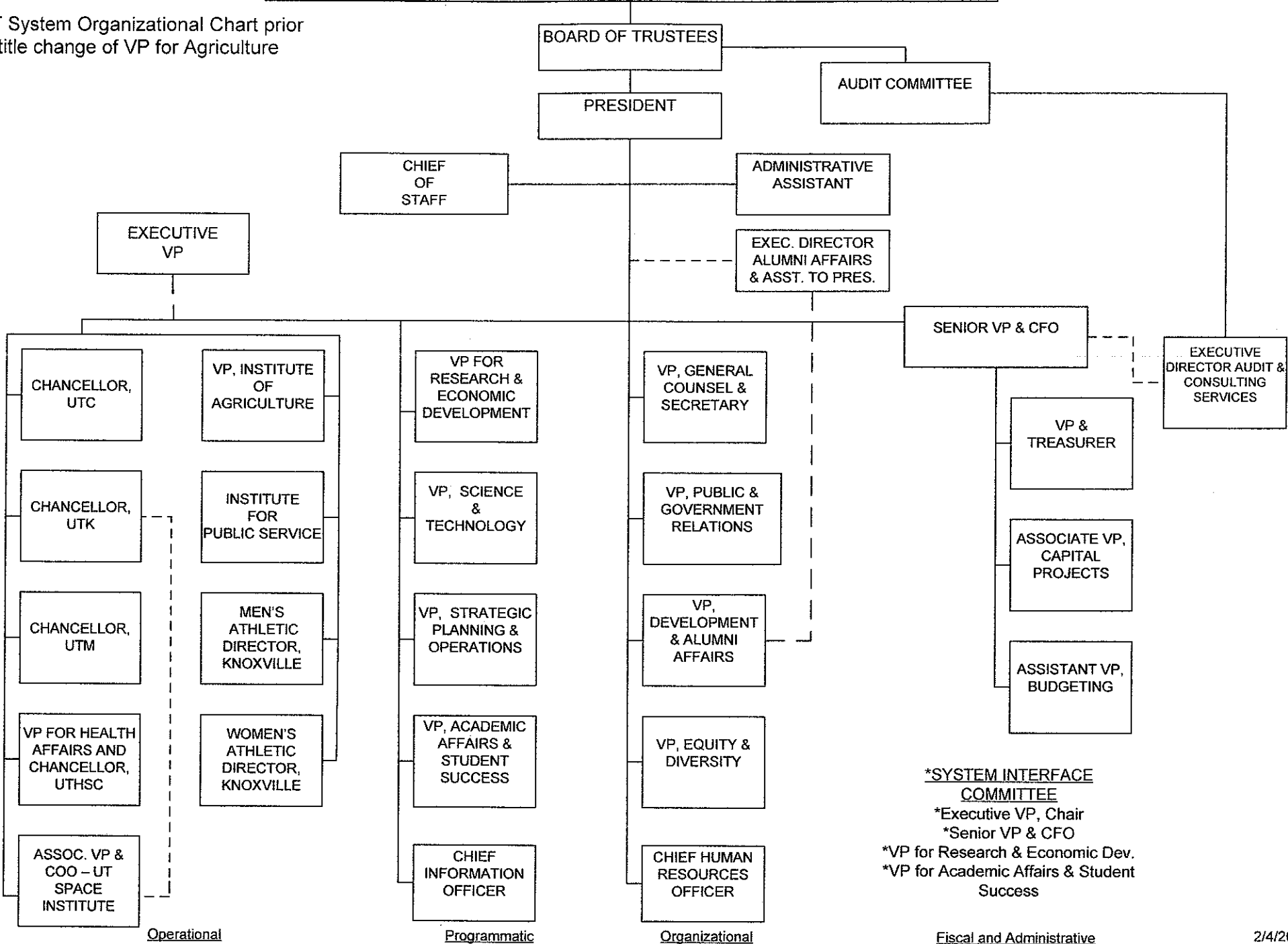
Attachment 5A

Duties of Vice President of Agriculture compared to Chancellors

Responsibilities	VP for Agriculture	UTK Chancellor	UTC Chancellor	UT HSC Chancellor	UTM Chancellor
<i>Approval and management of faculty appointments</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Program development and review</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Interface and contact with faculty and faculty senate</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Interface and contact with students</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Supervision and interface with staff</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>HR Officer report</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Promotion and/or tenure</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Revocation of tenure</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Termination of tenure track/probationary faculty</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Approval of new academic programs</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Discontinuance of academic programs</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Research performance and metrics</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Academic dean reports</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Confer degrees</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Student services/Admissions</i>	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Approval of International Agreements/MOU's</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Marketing and Communications</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Development and Fundraising</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Equity and Diversity</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Government Affairs and External Relations</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Unit Level Strategic Planning</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Approval tuition costs/changes</i>	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>State funding for formula units</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<i>State funding for Non-formula units</i>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>Facilities, operations and Maintenance</i>	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Capital outlay, maintenance and construction project management</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>IT infrastructure</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>External grants and contract approval and performance</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Federal formula funds</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No
<i>Federal earmark solicitation and approval</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Staff employee relations and personnel actions</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Regional and county based outreach and youth development program</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No
<i>Statewide system of Research and Education Centers</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No
<i>Campus Representative to UT System</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Direct Campus Oversight</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

UT System Organizational Chart prior to title change of VP for Agriculture

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**



***SYSTEM INTERFACE COMMITTEE**
 *Executive VP, Chair
 *Senior VP & CFO
 *VP for Research & Economic Dev.
 *VP for Academic Affairs & Student Success

April 2011

