EXEMPT STAFF COUNCIL MEETING
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

March 15, 2010
Riverbend Room, University Center

Members attending: Jim Bowman, Cindy Carroll, Jean Dake, Amy Davis, Shirl Gholston, Valara Sample.

Others in attendance: Dan Webb, Director, Office of Human Resources; Melanie Sadler, Administrative Specialist, Office of Human Resources.

Call to Order: Mr. Bowman called the meeting to order.

Guest: Janet Spraker, Director of Engineering Services, Facilities

Phase II of the Aquatic & Recreation Center (ARC) is 20% complete. Staff may view construction via webcam on the ARC website. Foundation for the library is out for pre-bids. By the end of June, foundation work should be completed and a bid awarded for building construction. The lack of parking and a green roof, which will be visible from the library café, add points towards a LEED Certification.

Bids opened last week for a new campus entrance. Boiler replacement project is ongoing with Lot 7 being used for utility construction. When completed, the lot will be repaved and serve as visitor parking, adjacent to Admissions in the University Center. Financial Aid will move into University Center space currently occupied by Art, which will move to Guerry Center.

Improvements at Scrappy Moore field include replacing one-half of the natural turf with synthetic turf. Plans for a financial center in Fletcher, in space previously occupied by Disbursements, have been altered. Donor funds are being used for the program instead of remodeling. Grote Hall renovations should be complete by fall.

ADA improvements of $175,000, possibly more, will be used on the west entrance of Race/Hooper Hall. A ‘math mall’ will be located in McClellan Gym lobby and enclosed to limit noise from the gym. New fire alarms have been placed in the gym and Development House. Repairs will be made to the exterior of Patten House, built in 1896. Windows will be replaced in Grote, Bretske, and maybe Davenport Hall. Roofs will be repaired in Pfeiffer-Stagmeier, Davenport, and Founders. Restrooms will be remodeled in Hunter, Brock, Holt, and possibly the gym.

A permit was received from the State Historical Commission for demolition of the funeral home, which will be landscaped and blacktopped this summer, adding 120 spaces.

Approximately $4.5 million in stimulus funds will add more projects in 2010-11. Geosciences will move out of Bretske, which will become home to the Women’s Center. Arena lower-level seating and improved storage will be addressed. Staff may view projects on the Facilities website.

Guest: Dr. Richard Brown, Vice Chancellor, Finance & Operations
The university has sustained cuts for the past ten years; an $11.5 million cut to the base budget three years ago; a 7% cut in 2009-10; $2.8 million cut for 2010-11. Enrollment growth of 6% for 2009-10 made it possible to add back approximately 20 positions that had been eliminated. Tuition and fees are projected to increase 5-7%.

Despite the reductions in state allocations, the legislature has enacted a new funding formula in an effort to increase graduation rates. The perception of the university’s articulation agreement is not positive but Dr. Brown said agreements with Cleveland State and Chattanooga State are working well. The university is coming upon SACS 10-year reaccreditation. There are limitations to growth and the university must teach more online classes, which are SACS accredited.

Quarterly budget meetings are held and Dr. Brown does not anticipate a buying frenzy by departments during the last quarter. Stimulus funds are helping to rebalance the institution by adding some positions, providing energy management, and adding technology. Each office will receive new computers but old computers will be removed. An RFP will be released for a technology review plan.

The old campus master plan has been completed and an RFP for a new plan will be released that will study, among other things, where new buildings should be constructed. Over $500 million has been spent in the last 10 years for capital projects. A new parking deck, if built, would necessitate a 3-5% increase in parking fees. Dr. Brown pointed out parking fees in Knoxville average $100/month. The university will lease 1,000 spaces at Engel Stadium to address immediate parking needs. The shuttle runs every 6 minutes ending at 5:30 pm. Dr. Brown said students would like to have the shuttle travel into the campus and he is trying to secure smaller buses running until 7 p.m.

In 2004, Chattanooga and Hamilton County passed a resolution to give Engel Stadium to the university. The city spent $10 million to repair flooding problems. UTC has spent $1.5 million on Engel, which is used for Intramurals and baseball.

An RFP to house students in downtown locations will be sent forth. The university must consider where to build housing, approximately 500-800 beds that will be traditional housing and not apartments. The Provost has expressed a desire for an Honors residence hall.

A new 10-year food contract has been awarded to Aramark, the only bidder. They will spend $3.5 million to renovate Crossroads into an all-you-can eat buffet, with healthy choices for faculty/staff/students and will be open extended hours.

Dr. Brown said he does not foresee a crisis in 2012 when stimulus monies end as some stimulus positions may roll to state dollars. He encouraged members to view the budget online at Business & Financial Affairs and UPRAC websites, adding that he wants transparency in the budget. The university is in better financial shape than other campuses and UTC now has a fund balance of $4.3 million.
Other Issues

Ms Oglesby said she met staff from UC Berkeley at a recent NASPA convention, where the Chancellor’s Challenge website was shown. She has been invited to present a workshop next year.

Mr. Webb said the TAG is working to enhance the SPDR (Staff Performance & Development Review) that includes performance management as a large component.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie Sadler
Administrative Specialist, Human Resources