

Minutes of the Outreach Committee

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees

**June 23, 2005
Knoxville, TN**

The meeting of the Outreach Committee of the Board of Trustees was held at 8:30 a.m. EDT, Thursday, June 23, 2005 in Room 160 of the Plant Biotech Building in Knoxville, Tennessee.

I. Call to Order

Mr. John Thornton, Chair of the Outreach Committee, called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Chair John Thornton called the roll, and the following members were present.

Mr. John Thornton
Ms. Laura Brannon
Ms. Barbara Cattleman
Mr. Steve Ennis
Commissioner Ken Givens
Mr. Jerry Jackson
President John Petersen
Dr. Rich Rhoda
Commissioner Lana Severs
Mr. Karl Schledwitz
Mr. Don Stansberry
Dr. Susan Vickerstaff

III. Introductions

Non-voting staff members of the Committee were introduced:

Kimberly Arms, IPS consultant
Gregory Blake, Family Medicine, UT Hospital
Dick Gourley, College of Pharmacy
Ms. Sandra Harbison, College of Vet Medicine
Paul Hart, Extension
Mary Kate Ridgeway, Extension
Bob Schettler, CTAS
Michael Tallent, MTAS

IV. Presentation on Value of the Agricultural Experiment Stations and Extension Programs

Buddy Mitchell, Interim Vice President for Agriculture, introduced the value to the State of Tennessee of the UT Agricultural Experiment Stations and the UT Extension Programs.

Mr. Mitchell explained Tennessee agriculture is composed of small producers, which means that the producers in Tennessee are price-getters not price setters. Farmers must become more productive and produce more product to earn more money. The input costs of agriculture have risen 2.5 times.

The purpose of Tennessee's Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop technology through research to benefit agricultural and natural resource sectors and therefore, consumers. Ninety million dollars in federal and state dollars are funded to the Experiment Station and UT Extension. There is a \$1.3 billion return on these dollars to the State of Tennessee.

Mr. Mitchell introduced Dr. Tom Klindt, Interim Dean of the Agricultural Experiment Station. The UT Agricultural Experiment Station is the research arm of the UT Institute of Agriculture. They develop the technology which is ultimately passed on to the clients of the UTIA.

Examples of research projects the UT Experiment Station has successfully completed include:

- Predator Beetle to save Hemlocks
- Soybean Varieties – Vince Pantalone is the premier soybean researcher in the nation
- Dogwood Resistant to Disease
- Sensors that spot weeds & crop spray only weed
- Growth regulators to save mowing of highway right of ways
- UT Trial Gardens.

Mr. Mitchell introduced Dr. Charles Norman, Dean of UT Extension.

Dr. Norman explained UT Extension makes 4 million personal contacts a year. Each of the State of Tennessee's 95 counties has a UT Extension office, which gives UT a "campus" in every county. The offices and personnel are funded by county, state and federal appropriation and grants and contracts.

Extension programs include 4-H, Family & Consumer Sciences, Agricultural Resources, and Agricultural Development.

4-H

The Tennessee 4-H program is the largest youth development program in the State with more than 380,000 youth involved.

Estimated value of 4-H service learning projects is \$9.5 million.

UT Extension operates four 4-H Centers across the state that provide summer camping and year-round educational experiences.

Family & Consumer Science

For every \$1 spent by UT Family & Consumer Science a return of \$7 is expected when childcare programs receive quality childcare educational services.

The cost of obesity to the Tennessee economy was \$1.8 billion in 2004 (38 percent of the state health care budget). In response, UT Extension launched the statewide nutrition education and physical activity initiative: Tennessee Shapes Up.

It is estimated that for every \$1 spent for prevention, \$10.60 in reduced long-term health cost is realized.

Research

The economic impact of UT research is an estimated \$80 million.

Crop Variety Trial – 91 percent of producers choose varieties based on UT data. Higher yielding varieties increases corn yields; soybean yields; cotton yields.

Reducing Erosion - Traditional tillage results in soil erosion losses of up to 17 tons an acre, sediment loading in streams, rivers and lakes, and increase costs of dredging and water treatment. Using conservation tillage developed by UT reduced erosion losses by 27.7 million tons. The total value is \$156 million annually, with \$116 million value to landowners and \$40 million in off-site savings.

Trustee Lynn Johnson suggested that plans need to be developed on how to get the word out to the public and citizens of the State on the impact The University of Tennessee has on the economy of Tennessee. This will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

Ken Givens mentioned that agriculture in Tennessee could not survive without UT.

V. Annual Report on Economic Development Activities

The report is attached.

VI. Other Business

The Chair asked for other business to come before the Committee. No other business was presented.

VIII. There being no further business before the Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned.