The UT Martin Advisory Board met Friday, May 21, in the Boling University Center for the first in-person meeting of the board since January 2020. The board approved the recommended 2021-2022 operating budget that now moves forward to the UT Board of Trustees for consideration at the June 24-25 meeting in Memphis. Art Sparks, of Union City, currently chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Bynum, Sharon; Dr. Philip Smartt, Dresden; Emma Hilliard, student member, Bells; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County.

Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement, presented a report to the board.

2021-2022 operating budget recommendation approved

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Fiscal year-to-date giving as of May 9 stood at $7.3 million raised toward an $8.9 million goal, which appears within reach with other gifts pending. The university will also launch its largest capital campaign in history Sept. 11 at the UT Martin-Samford University football game in Hardy Graham Stadium. Deal said that a key to continued fundraising success is a stewardship plan designed to keep donors involved.

“Our goal in stewardship, when someone makes a gift, that’s not the end,” Deal said. “When they receive their receipt, when they receive their thank you, or they get a video from us saying ‘thank you,’ we want to keep that going. We want ... to bring them back into the cultivation stage so that we can solicit them again.” Deal’s vision is to build the current $43 million UT Martin endowment to $100 million by 2030.

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Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration, presented the 2021-2022 operating budget recommendation. She also provided a COVID-19 relief funding update and reported approximately $5.3 million received from the Coronavirus Air, Relief and Economic Security or CARES Act; $8.9 million received from the CARES Act’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund; and $15.5 million from the American Rescue Plan. "Overall, we’re looking at $29.7 million that we will have in funds available to us, with at least $13 million available to directly go to students," she said.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver expanded on McPherson’s budget presentation and highlighted graduation-rate progress since the Soar in Four tuition model was approved by the UT Board of Trustees and began at UT Martin in fall 2016. The tuition model encourages students to take at least 15 hours per semester in order to graduate in four years. “Since that program was implemented, UT Martin’s six-year graduation rate has gone up 14.4%,” Carver said, making the current rate 54%. “Now is 54% (six-year graduation rate) good enough? No, it’s not, but if we jumped 14.4 (percent) in the last six years, we’re going to continue on that trend, and we’ll make sure of that.”

In other business, the board welcomed Johnny Woolfolk, of Woolfolk Farms in Madison County, as Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee’s most recent appointee to the group. He will serve a four-year term ending June 30, 2024. Also introduced was the board’s next student member, Kelsea Koonce, of Newbern. Koonce is a junior majoring in agricultural business, and her term will run from July 1 to June 30, 2022. She replaces Emma Hilliard, of Bells, whose term ended, and she will attend the UT Health Science Center this fall.

The meeting is archived at www.utm.edu/advisory. The next UT Martin Advisory Board meeting will be held Friday, Sept. 17.

To watch the Advisory Board meeting visit utm.edu/advisory. The next meeting will be held Friday, Sept. 17.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony virtually at 9 a.m., Friday, May 28, in lieu of the traditional in-person service. The ceremony will be livestreamed on UT Martin’s Facebook and YouTube and will be archived for later viewing. The program will also be broadcast on WUTM FM 90.3 “The Hawk.”

Col. Ardis Porter, a retired U.S. Army military officer, will serve as this year’s keynote speaker. In his last assignment, he served as deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox in Kentucky. He received his commission as a second lieutenant through Vanderbilt University’s ROTC program. With over 30 years of experience in human resources, he has been recognized for his extensive leadership in the military.

Porter currently works at the Agricenter International in Memphis as the program manager for Veterans Employed in Technology and Service in Agriculture (VETSA), a program designed to prepare transitioning military personnel and veterans for civilian careers in the agricultural service and support sectors.

Lt. Col. Rodric McClain, UT Martin professor of military science, will serve as the master of ceremonies, and DaeShuana Aldridge, UT Martin student, will sing the national anthem at the start of the program. Porter will speak after the invocation by Chaplain Debra McGuire and comments by UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver are given. At the conclusion of the ceremony, U.S. Rep. David Kustoff will bring remarks, Dale Willis from the UT Martin Physical Plant will offer the benediction and Aaron MacDonald, UT Martin student, will play taps.

Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States of America. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming a federal holiday in 1971.

For more information, contact Joyanne Gansereit, UT Martin coordinator of public occasions, at ganserei@utm.edu.

To see the program visit UT Martin’s Facebook and YouTube or tune in to WUTM FM 90.3 “The Hawk” to listen.
YoUTMs highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Drs. Angie MacKewn, professor of psychology, and Brian Donavant, professor of criminal justice, published their paper “Thinking About Your Thinking: Metacognition and the Adolescentizing of Online Higher Education” in International Educational Studies and Sustainability. Their research examines differences in metacognitive awareness and regulation strategies in the multigenerational melting pot that has become undergraduate online education, and offers relevant considerations for online delivery.

Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration, was named to the search committee for the next University of Tennessee treasurer. The university treasurer is an officer elected by the UT Board of Trustees and reports to the senior vice president and chief financial officer. The selected candidate for the position is expected to be identified in summer 2021.

Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, has been named president-elect of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). In this role he will be representing the Academic Agriculture Programs of Colleges and Universities throughout North America. He will take office June 24 at the group’s annual meeting.

Welcome New Employees

• Alexandria Driver is the Memphis regional admissions counselor with Undergraduate Admissions.
• Trista Holmes is a child care lead teacher with the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center.

Outstanding Service Awards

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS – The Division of Student Affairs presented Outstanding Service awards on May 20 to staff members that went above and beyond to ensure students remained safe, healthy and connected during the pandemic. Pictured (l-r) are Shannon Perry, director of student conduct and care; Ben Ort, Browning Hall director; Ryan Martin, assistant director of residence life; Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs; Valerie Dean, housing building services supervisor; and Anthony Prewitt, interim director of multicultural affairs. Not pictured are Celia Johnson, testing administration specialist and Shannon Deal, director of student health and counseling.

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM. Email us at addenda@utm.edu.

Upcoming Events

• June 7 & 14: Kid College 2021;
• June 24-25: UT Board of Trustees annual meeting.

Please send upcoming event information to addenda@utm.edu.
The J. Houston Gordon Museum at UT Martin is hosting *Spots of Light: To be a Woman in the Holocaust*, an exhibition from the Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, Israel. The exhibit showcases 30 panels featuring nine aspects of the Jewish woman’s daily life during the Holocaust: love, motherhood, caring for others, womanhood, resistance and rescue, friendship, faith, food and the arts. It gives expression to the unique voice of Jewish women in the Holocaust: their choices and responses through the brutality, relentless hardship, and evil they had to face daily. The exhibition reveals the poignant stories behind the historical events and provides faces and voices within the darkness and silence.

*Spots of Light: To be a Woman in the Holocaust* is open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Aug. 10. For more information, contact museum curator Samuel Richardson at 731-881-7094 or via e-mail at sricha12@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee Alumni Association and the University of Tennessee at Martin honored six local faculty members during UT Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony, May 2.

Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music, received the UT Martin Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award for excellence in the classroom. A native of Hong Kong, Yeung has performed in recitals and concerts on three continents. She holds a bachelor’s degree in voice performance from Hong Kong Baptist University and a master’s degree in music from Texas State University. She also earned a master’s degree in music theory and a doctoral of musical arts degree in voice performance, both from Michigan State University.

Dr. Tom Blanchard, director of the Reelfoot Lake Environmental Field Station, and Dr. Patrick Baker, associate professor of business law, both received the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Awards. Blanchard is a professor in biological sciences and has been a UT Martin faculty member since 2001. He holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Augusta State University, a master’s degree in biology from Southeastern Louisiana University and a doctorate in zoology and physiology from Louisiana State University. Baker joined the UT Martin faculty in 2016 and currently teaches law in the College of Business and Global Affairs. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the Virginia Military Institute and received his Juris Doctor at the Appalachian School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Virginia and Tennessee.

Baker also received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award, along with Dr. Mark Simmons, professor of music. Simmons is director of choral activities and professor of music. Simmons is director of choral activities and professor of music and has been a UT Martin faculty member since 2004. He conducts the campus-wide University Singers as well as the touring choir, the New Pacer Singers. He holds degrees in music education and conducting from Ithaca College, the Eastman School of Music and Arizona State University.

Sarah McCormick, professor of dance, received the UT Martin Outstanding Academic Adviser Award. She joined the UT Martin faculty in 2008 and serves as the coordinator of the K-12 Dance Education Licensure Program. She holds a bachelor’s degree in world arts and culture from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master’s degree from the College at Brockport, State University of New York.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
You Tell Me

• **Question** – What is the protocol for raising and lowering the U.S., state and university flags?

• **Answer** – UT Martin abides by the federal and state protocols governing the display of the U.S. and state of Tennessee flags. The university flag is lowered to half-staff on the authority of the chancellor or the UT president following notification of the death of a current employee (faculty or staff), current student, a former UT Martin chancellor or UT president. When informed of a campus death, the Office of the Chancellor contacts Physical Plant administration to lower the appropriate flag or flags. A campus announcement about the death will be sent by the respective unit or by the Office of University Relations. Physical Plant staff will raise the flag or flags after the interment service or as designated by the chancellor.

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu/suggestionbox.