Fall enrollment and new academic programs were highlighted as the UT Martin Advisory Board met Friday, Sept. 17, in the Boling University Center for its scheduled fall meeting. Art Sparks, of Union City, chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Bynum, Sharon; Dr. Philip Smartt, faculty member, Dresden; Kelsea Koonce, student member, Newbern; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County. The meeting was the first official meeting for Koonce as she begins a one-year board term.

Sparks opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, who offered a brief COVID-19 report in which he noted a downward trend in both active virus cases and in total quarantines and isolations among university faculty, staff members and students. The previous meeting minutes were then approved, and an enrollment report and an overview of new academic programs were then presented by Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, presents an enrollment report and an overview of new academic programs. Kelsea Koonce is also pictured (foreground).
He said the university is moving forward proactively and will re-recruit many of the students who chose not to return this fall. A search is also underway to hire a new director this fall to coordinate retention efforts across the university.

Cavalier’s enrollment report transitioned to an overview of new academic programs that will address workforce needs and appeal to a wider range of students. Those programs include a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, which is available this fall, and a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity that is set to be available in fall 2022. A new Master of Science in Criminal Justice will begin in spring 2022.

Cavalier also said that a bachelor’s degree in construction management and a master’s in music education are currently under faculty review as potential new degree programs. “We really believe that these (academic programs) will help us as we try and counteract the effect of COVID,” he said.

Carver followed the academic reports by reviewing the status of major capital projects on the main campus, including completion of the Clement Hall renovation that will house undergraduate admissions and other student-centered services. He also previewed a possible Latimer Engineering and Science Building move-in sometime in April ahead of the first classes in the facility scheduled for fall 2022.

Even with the pandemic and other challenges, he noted major fundraising progress, recognized the work of the student affairs staff in keeping residence halls safe and cited record academic achievements for student athletes. He closed by thanking the university’s faculty for teaching under difficult and unpredictable circumstances. “Our faculty being willing to come back and do face-to-face (teaching) – some folks are nervous about it, but they are absolutely making it work,” Carver said. “Our students are telling us great things about them.”

Sparks closed the meeting by reminding the board of UT Martin graduate Brandon Rowland’s 2021 induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. The Jackson, Tennessee, native is a double amputee and accomplished athlete who led the Jackson Generals wheelchair basketball team to two National Wheelchair Basketball Association titles in the early 2000s. Sparks is a member of the TSHF board of directors.

The advisory board meeting is archived at utm.edu/advisory. The next UT Martin Advisory Board meeting will be held Jan. 21.
WestStar Leadership Program accepting 2022 class applications

Applications are now being accepted for the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2022. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership program in Tennessee, boasts 886 graduates to date and will welcome its 32nd class. The application deadline is Oct. 18. Anyone can apply to participate; nominations are accepted but not required.

The program includes eight sessions addressing contemporary issues important to West Tennessee’s development, including agriculture, economics and public policy, transportation, education, tourism and technology. Each session takes place over one-and-a-half days and are held across the region aside from a March session in Nashville. The program begins Dec. 9 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2022, with an evening graduation ceremony.

WestStar’s mission is to “identify, encourage, and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee’s economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.”

Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize their potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of fellow alumni and community leaders who help to shape West Tennessee’s future. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and service.

For more information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/weststar.

BANNER DAY – Physical Plant employees (l-r), Mickey Griffin and Rodney Pierpoint, work to hang branded banners along University Street Sept. 9 near the Hall-Moody Administration Building. The new banners, which were created by the Office of University Relations, alternate between messages and the new alternate Skyhawk head logo.

Pictured is the 2021 WestStar graduating class.

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

**Question** – What are the fall semester hours for the UT Martin Recycling Center? And where is the center located?

**Answer** – The UT Martin Recycling Center is open from 7 a.m.-1 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and from 3-6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the fall 2021 semester. The center is located in the former National Guard Armory building on Moody Avenue. For those new to the area, Moody Avenue is located between Hardy M. Graham Stadium and the Grove Apartment complex on University Street. The Recycling Center is at the end of the road.

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