

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Jan. 24, 2022

UT MARTIN ADVISORY BOARD MEETS



Dr. Philip Smartt, faculty member, Dresden; Kelsea Koonce, student member, Newbern; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County. Sparks and Wells were recently reappointed for additional four-year terms on the board by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and await legislative confirmation.

All agenda presentations were delivered virtually to the board and opened with Dr. Bill Fox providing an overview of the current economic situation in Tennessee. Cary Whitworth, UT vice president of government relations and advocacy, followed Fox with a review of the 2021 legislative session and a preview of the current session. Ashley Blamey, UT System Title IX coordinator, completed the agenda presentations with a Title IX update.

Carver completed the meeting by thanking the board members for their service to the board and then provided university highlights. He began with a COVID-19 update and reported the high number of current university cases. “The good news is fortunately, our cases, we have not so far had any that we would classify in our student population as severe,” he said, adding, “I really want to pause and thank our faculty and our staff for being back (following the holiday break) working through this face

Several topics covered during winter meeting

An economic forecast, a preview of the current Tennessee legislative session, a Title IX update and comments from **Chancellor Keith Carver** were agenda items for the winter meeting of the University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board held Friday, Jan. 21, in the Bolding University Center.

Art Sparks, of Union City, chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Bynum, Sharon;



(top) Chancellor Keith Carver addresses UT Martin Advisory Board members Jan. 21 during the board’s winter meeting. (above, l-r) Dr. Philip Smartt, faculty member, and Hal Bynum listen during Fox’s presentation.

Continued on PAGE 3

The submission deadline for Addenda content is noon on Thursdays.

Submissions can be sent to addenda@utm.edu

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Drs. Tim Dasinger and Deborah Gibson, both of the Department of Health and Human Performance, wrote an article titled “Perceptions of Mental Health and Need

Satisfaction/Frustration Among Rural University Students” that was recently accepted for publication in the Journal of American College Health.



ROAD TO VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER NAMED AFTER WALKER FAMILY – UT Martin has named the road leading to the Veterinary Technology Center “Walker Lane” in honor of the Walker family, who has donated more than \$29,000 to UT Martin and is strongly connected to the main campus. Joe Walker worked as the head of mechanical maintenance and retired from his full-time position in 1985, but returned as a part-time employee until 2003. His brother, the late Raphael Walker, served as alderman for the city of Martin from 1974-76. Raphael and his wife, Mildred, were married for 68 years, and were long-term partners with UT Martin by renting their large farm located next to the main campus to the university. Raphael’s son, Dr. Danny Walker, has taught at UT Martin since 2012 and serves as the lead professor in the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program. Before he came to UT Martin, he worked as a small-animal veterinarian for 32 years. Danny received the Elsevier Award for Teaching Excellence in 2017, which is a national award given every two years to honor those who are recognized by their students and colleagues as exceptional instructors. He received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award in 2019 and has served as president of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. For more information, contact Jeanna Curtis-Swofford, associate vice chancellor for development and planned giving, at jcurtis@utm.edu.

UTM RESEARCH SERIES

DR. SAMAN SARGOLZAEI

PRESENTS RESEARCH ON

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LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

TO VIEW AND PURCHASE UT MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY, VISIT UTM.EDU/PHOTOS.

FACULTY/STAFF COVID-19 TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Jan. 31, 11 a.m. (in person)
Feb. 18, 3 p.m.
March 29, 2 p.m.
April 28, 10 a.m.

Join Chancellor Carver in these meetings for the latest pandemic-related information for UT Martin.

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RETIREMENT PARTY

Debbie Hunter, an administrative specialist in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, retired from the university on Jan. 19. Hunter held several positions since coming to the university in 1997, which included working in the Office of Academic Records, serving as an administrative assistant for Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities and assistant to the dean in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Hunter is pictured (right) hugging **Dr. Todd Winters**, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean, at a Jan. 10 reception held in her honor by the college in Brehm Hall.

ADVISORY from PAGE 1

to face. ... People are really helping each other out, and the stories I hear from our students by and large, an overwhelming majority is, 'My faculty members are helping me out.'" To keep the university community safe, he said that mask wearing is highly recommended for indoor facilities where social distancing isn't possible.

Carver discussed university enrollment by first referencing a recent report that said about one million fewer students are attending college nationwide this semester compared to January 2020, a factor that has impacted UT Martin. Approximately 350 fewer students are enrolled at UT Martin from fall to spring, but enrollment indicators

for summer and fall are positive. He reported that housing applications are up 54% compared to a year ago and completed FAFSAs among applicants stand at 53% compared to 49% last year. Completion of the FAFSA is required to apply for federal student aid and for students receiving state grants and scholarships.

Another positive indicator for future enrollment is positive attendance at Future Skyhawk Receptions, which are informational events for prospective students and their families being held in Nashville, Jackson, Memphis, Martin, and Dyersburg. "Our deans have been great about coming out talking to students and parents," he said. "Many are coming and just want to

find out more about the financial aid (package) or more information on the residence hall rooms," he said. "Some are undecided." He told about the recent Jackson reception where one student he talked with decided to attend UT Martin following the event. "I'm not sure if the yield event helped with that one, but it did not hurt."

He next talked about the university's master plan, which outlines the university's development plans for the next five to 10 years. This involves reviewing existing and future facility needs and enrollment trends that drive those needs. In discussions so far with students, faculty, staff and other groups, people are saying, "We want to make our campus more user-friendly, functional,

inviting to the community but also inviting for students and bringing on new faculty and staff," he said, noting that a master plan report will likely be made this fall to the advisory board.

Carver previewed the university's long-running Civil Rights Conference in February and highlighted the appearance Feb. 12 by Cyntoia Brown who was granted clemency in 2019 by then Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Brown was a teenage sex-trafficking victim who was serving a long prison sentence for killing a man in a situation she maintained was self-defense. She will be joined by well-known Covington trial attorney and UT Martin graduate Houston Gordon for the visit. Gordon was one of the attorneys who represented Brown.

Carver also commended the university's student athletes who continue to excel academically and in competition. Student athletes have exceeded their cumulative grade-point average for four consecutive semesters and captured 2021 regular-season Ohio Valley Conference championships in women's basketball, golf, soccer and football. "Right now, we're number one in the Ohio Valley Conference in terms of the Commissioner's Cup, in terms of our all-sports performance," he said.

He closed by reporting the university's hiring of its first-ever student-retention director who will join UT Martin in February, the university's educational role supporting Ford's Blue Oval City all-electric truck manufacturing campus development in West Tennessee, and the success of the current UT Martin RISE Campaign. Carver reported that \$158 million has already been raised of the \$175 million RISE fundraising goal that was announced last year. "It truly is remarkable the support that we have," he said, thanking the advisory board for their part in the university's fundraising success.

The full advisory board meeting is archived at www.utm.edu/advisory.



INVESTMENT SUCCESS – Members of the UT Martin-TVA Investment Challenge team finished first among 27 universities competing in the Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium on Oct. 28-29, 2021, in Chicago. Student portfolio managers enrolled in Finance 411, a class taught by finance professor Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, were recognized for their accomplishments Dec. 3 by the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. The team received \$1,000 for its first-place finish. Pictured in front of the Kelly Murray Investment Management Room at the recognition event are (front row, l-r) are Dr. Sandra Murray, mother of the late Kelly Murray; David Burden, community bank president, FirstBank; Haddad; Logan Alfano-Webb, investment team, Counce; Heath Hester, investment team, Martin; Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean, College of Business and Global Affairs; and Ryan Stover, Ameriprise Financial; (back row, l-r) William Murray, father of Kelly Murray; Jim Wingett, Wolf River Capital Management; Brice Williams, investment team, Dresden; Seth Bishop, investment team, Adamsville; Alexzander Schell, investment team, Madisonville, Kentucky; Kyle Hart, investment team, Union City; and Wib Evans, president, FirstBank Ventures. To read more about the TVA Investment Challenge team's success, [click here](#).

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addenda

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