

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Jan. 27, 2025



UT Martin Advisory Board chair Art Sparks (left) and university chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman are pictured during the Jan. 24 meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board. The board unanimously approved the university's new strategic plan that now goes to the UT Board of Trustees for consideration at the board's February meeting in Martin. The full advisory board meeting is archived for viewing and associated meeting materials are available at www.utm.edu/advisoryboard.

Advisory board approves 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

The UT Martin 2025-2030 Strategic Plan received unanimous approval by the UT Martin Advisory Board during its winter meeting Friday, Jan. 24, in the Boling University Center.

The five-year plan, which includes an enrollment goal of 10,000 students by 2030, now goes to the UT Board of Trustees for review during the board's winter meeting Feb. 27-28 in Martin.

Advisory boards were created for each University of Tennessee campus under the UT FOCUS Act passed during Gov. Bill Haslam's administration.

Board members are appointed by the governor, confirmed by the Tennessee

General Assembly and advise the chancellors, UT president and UT Board of Trustees on matters related to the university campuses.

UT Martin graduate Art Sparks of Union City, partner at Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC, is the advisory board chair and presided over the meeting.

UT Martin Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** outlined the plan's five goals for the board that will guide the university during the next five years.

Those goals focus on achieving sustainable enrollment growth, delivering exceptional education and service, creating and enhancing physical and virtual spaces,

strengthening existing partnerships and developing new collaborations, and promoting and celebrating faculty and staff excellence and student achievement.

The goals were developed beginning last fall with initial SWOT analysis sessions conducted by six constituent groups that examined strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Approximately 265 university and community members participated in the SWOT workshops, focus groups or goal working groups. Twenty-four strategies emerged to accomplish the goals, including metrics for tracking progress.

Continued on PAGE 5

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Bridgette Whitt, assistant professor and acquisitions and collections librarian in the Paul Meek Library, participated in the American Library Association’s LibLearnX 2025 conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Her presentation, “Creating an Inclusive Library Workforce,” provided participants with actionable strategies to reimagine and foster disability inclusion within the library workforce.



Whitt

Dr. Adnan Rasool, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, was mentioned in a Jan. 23 in The Daily Memphian about development in the region surrounding BlueOval City in Haywood County.

The article credits Rasool and his team of students for conducting surveys in the area and providing information that led to that development.

In February 2024, Rasool and five political science students conducted surveys in Haywood as part of a project for regional development.

“The goal of the project was to highlight the equitable growth challenges that can be addressed by Ford and the



Rasool

Equitable Growth Advisory Council,” Rasool said in an article about the survey. “The project also creates baseline data for policy makers to work with in terms of future regional development.”

An article crediting UT Martin for the survey was also seen in The Commercial Appeal.

Dr. Samon Sargolzaei, associate professor of engineering, was recognized as a CMMI Panel Fellow by the National Science Federation Directorate of Engineering, Division of Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI).

The recognition is for leadership in advancing NSF’s core values of scientific innovation and collaboration.



Sargolzaei

King’s three societal evils



Dr. John LaDue, assistant proessor of library sciences, presented “The Whitewashing of Dr. King’s Legacy” Jan. 20 to Friends Meeting Nashville. It was part of a discussion on “the three evils of society” that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described in 1967: racism, poverty and militarism. King not only described these evils, but he actively organized against them.

Dr. Clinton Smith, professor of special education and chair of the Department of Educational Studies, was selected to serve as a steering team member for the Tennessee Grow Your Own collaboratory project.

This initiative, funded by the UT Grand Challenges grant, is supported by faculty and staff from across the UT System and focuses on improving teacher retention in Tennessee. The project will design and implement a sustainable, co-created mentor teacher professional development program, using experimental



Smith

research to evaluate its impact. The long-term goal is to scale the program through the Tennessee Grow Your Own Center.

**Submit a YoUTM
or question
to addenda@utm.edu!**

Volunteers package 20,000 meals for MLK Day of Service

The University of Tennessee at Martin and the City of Martin brought together more than 220 volunteers for the MLK Day of Service, held Jan. 20 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

This year's event was made possible through financial support of the Black Student Association, Latin Hispanic Student Association, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, College Panhellenic Council, UT Martin Black Alumni Council, Oak Grove Church, Refreshing Church, Martin Housing Authority, Donald Southern BBQ and Virtual Academy.

During the event, volunteers worked in assembly lines to pack 20,000 bean-and-rice casserole meals. These meals were distributed to local churches, residents of the Martin Housing Authority, the campus food pantry in UT Martin residence halls, and We Care, which received the largest share for broader community distribution.

Sponsored by Meals of Hope, the day exemplified the spirit of service and community that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. championed.



Posing with a banner proclaiming the MLK Day of Service are (l-r) Chancellor Yancy Freeman; Will Harris, Interfraternity Council president; Isabella Walker, Latin Hispanic Student Association president; Terianne Ray, Black Student Association president; Sha'keva Williams, National Pan-Hellenic Council president; and Hallie Abernathy, College Panhellenic Council president.

By shifting from a traditional breakfast to a hands-on service event, UT Martin and the City of Martin expanded the day's impact, engaging students, faculty, staff and community members in a meaningful effort

to fight food insecurity.

Since 1995, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday has been a national day of service in order to honor and extend King's legacy.



Volunteers work together in an assembly line to package 20,000 bean-and-rice casserole meals Jan. 20 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center in partnership with Meals of Hope, a nonprofit organization committed to fighting hunger across communities. Since 1994, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday has been an official day of service to honor and continue King's legacy.

UT MARTIN
Research Series

"BEETLES, BONES, AND BAD MOTHS: SKYHAWK UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS IN ENTOMOLOGY"

Dr. Jack Grubaugh will highlight his extensive research including entomological work with hide beetles (also known as flesh-eating beetles). UTM engages many students in laboratory work, field research, and internships, and this event will highlight cooperative programs underway in the Departments of Agriculture and Biological Sciences.

Dr. Jack Grubaugh
Professor, Biological Sciences

Wednesday, January 29th @ 4:00 pm
Paul Meek Library North Windows

FEATURED FACULTY SCHOLAR

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Thursday, Feb. 6

- *Women's basketball vs. Lindenwood, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- *Men's basketball vs. Lindenwood, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Saturday, Feb. 8

- *Women's basketball vs. Western Illinois, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- Men's basketball vs. Western Illinois, 3:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

* - conference competition

- Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.
- Watch "Skyhawk Sports Talk" each week, archived at utmsports.com! New episodes are posted each Monday.

UTM faculty, staff chosen for UTLI



Seven UT Martin faculty and staff were selected for the annual UT Leadership Institute, Feb. 16-21, in Chattanooga. Founded in 1981, the leadership institute is a UT System-wide program that recognizes and encourages the leadership development of the university's faculty and staff. The institute recognizes faculty and staff who have demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and abilities and are identified as having potential for even greater service to UT and higher education in Tennessee. Pictured at a Jan. 23 reception in the Nunnely Family Welcome Center honoring those selected are (l-r) Chancellor Yancy Freeman, a UTLI graduate; Landy Fuqua, director, REED Center; Kameron Echols, director, multicultural affairs; Dr. Anthony Delmond, chairholder, Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise; Dr. Adnan Rasool, director, Center for Teaching and Learning; Dr. Carrie Humphreys, chair, Department of Political Science and Global Studies; and Rachel Martin, director, student life. Not pictured is Dr. Brad Baumgardner, director of retention.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – How are decisions made about academic program marketing priorities?

• **Answer** – The Strategic Enrollment Plan was developed and finalized under the leadership of academic affairs in 2020 just before the pandemic. The purpose of the ongoing plan is to guide the university's marketing priorities and expenditures. Enrollment-marketing priorities are set by a standing committee with metrics established to track progress. Both established and new academic programs are identified as marketing priorities and are reviewed annually for changes determined by the SEM committee. Destin Tucker, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services, chairs the committee. Marketing costs are funded and tracked in a separate line item in the university relations budget.

Submit your questions to Addenda at addenda@utm.edu.

**Read more UT Martin news
at news.utm.edu!**

ADVISORY from PAGE 1

“I am really excited about this plan,” Freeman told the board during his presentation. “It is one that I think is entrepreneurial, and innovative and creative, and will take us to the next level.

“I’m most excited because it’s not just my plan. It is not just me standing and talking about ‘this is what we will do’ ... but 265 people that have contributed to the bottom line of what this plan looks like.”

Art Sparks opened the floor for comments following Freeman’s presentation and offered his assessment of the plan that will serve as a roadmap for the university’s growth and progress.

“Those are five ambitious goals, but they’re all attainable with hard work,” he said.

Discussion followed before a unanimous vote approved the plan that moves to the UT Board of Trustees for consideration and final approval in February.

Sparks later closed the meeting by reminding board members of their responsibility for supporting the university.

“We (board members) are the people that should be getting

out and talking to people within our communities about all the great things that are going on at UT Martin,” he said. “As we have seen today with these presentations, there are a lot of great things going on, a lot of good things.”

Other reports to the advisory board included:

- **Petra McPhearson**, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, reminded the board of the groundbreaking for the Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology (TEST) Hub that is set for 11:30 a.m., Feb. 28, behind the Student Recreation Center following the UT Board of Trustees meeting.

The TEST Hub was completely funded by the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2022.

McPhearson also reported plans for other major capital projects that include a new College of Business and Global Affairs Building and new student housing.

- **Kurt McGuffin**, vice chancellor for athletics, highlighted several academic achievements among Skyhawk student-athletes as well as 2024 conference championships in

men’s basketball and football and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament by Skyhawk women’s basketball and several facilities improvements, including field renovations and a new fence for Skyhawk baseball.

He also discussed the changing landscape in college athletics and the impact of name, image and likeness on student-athletes and college sports.

- **Destin Tucker**, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services, reported unofficial UT Martin spring semester enrollment numbers that currently stand at more than 7,000 students, a 9.5% increase compared to spring 2024.

Looking ahead to fall semester, she said the university aims to increase enrollment by more than 5% over fall 2024 enrollment as UT Martin moves toward the strategic-plan goal of

10,000 students in 2030.

Dr. Brad Baumgardner, director of retention, added his comments about the university’s record student retention and credited multiple people and university initiatives for keeping students on track to earn degrees.

In addition to Art Sparks, members of the UT Martin Advisory Board are Hal Bynum, Dresden; **Chayil Watkins**, Rossville, student representative; Dan Strasser, Chapel Hill, alumni representative; **Dr. Dan McDonough**, faculty representative, Martin; Johnny Woolfolk, Jackson; and Dr. Tonya Reynoldson, Camden.

The full meeting is archived for viewing and associated meeting materials are available at www.utm.edu/advisoryboard.

The UTM Advisory Board’s next meeting will be May 16 in the Boling University Center.

CTL hosts open house



The Center for Teaching and Learning held an open house Jan. 22 in the Paul Meek Library and was led by CTL Director Dr. Adnan Rasool (right). The Center for Teaching and Learning came about in UT Martin’s Quality Enhancement Plan submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in 2023 by Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, the associate provost and SACSCOC coordinator.

Campus Calendar

Wednesday, Jan. 29

- WestStar ALStar conference, 8:30 a.m., Boling University Center.

Jan. 30-31

- WestStar opening retreat and orientation, Martin/Weakley County.

Monday, Feb. 3

- Civil Rights Conference: “CRC: From Then to Now,” 6 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

- Civil Rights Conference: Charlayne Hunter-Gault, speaking event, 6 p.m., Watkins Auditorium.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

- Civil Rights Conference: Financial Literacy Workshop, 4 p.m., 206 Boling University Center.

Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change.

addenda