



**UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville:
Reaffirmation of an Effective Structure
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Issue: The Institute of Agriculture includes four major units: UT Extension, AgResearch, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The Vice-President for Agriculture reports to the President of the University of Tennessee System. Support for faculty, staff and students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is provided through the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). Admissions, student services, and other support is administered through the Chancellor's Office of UTK. The College of Veterinary Medicine also receives student support through UTK. All four units have a physical presence on the West Campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Other support provided to the units include transportation services, facilities services, and basic information technology services, among others.

Recently, basic questions concerning the proper fiscal arrangements between the Institute, UTK and UT System such as "Who pays the utility bills?" are being asked by each unit administrator. Costs are also being estimated for research compliance for the Institute. Financial arrangements regarding faculty salary support for CASNR appointments have been questioned, and past agreements for support of teaching programs by AgResearch and UT Extension are also undergoing scrutiny. Student fees are collected by UTK, but benefits do not appear to accrue to CASNR or CVM students.

What has been done: An unbiased assessment of the institutional arrangements between the Institute, UT Knoxville, and the UT System was conducted to establish a foundation of trust and mutually beneficial working relationships. This audit will lay the framework for future administrators to use in a non-threatening manner for management and leadership of the Institute, Knoxville Campus, and System.

Impacts: A comprehensive audit was completed and a final report is in the draft stage. The report focused on issues raised by administrators at the Institute, UTK and UT Systems. Findings are being reviewed by all parties, and additional data and inquiries are being conducted as needed. Recommendations will eventually be agreed to by all parties, and provide a foundation for future best practices among all parties. Outcomes include increased understanding and appreciation for resource requirements and revenue streams, as well as greater knowledge of Institute programs by UTK and UT Systems leaders.

Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors: No additional funding required. Cooperators included Audit Staff, Chancellor and Provost at UTK, and Deans and Vice-President at the Institute of Agriculture. Dr. Joe DiPietro was a key mentor throughout the process.

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