PREAMBLE

The University of Tennessee requires that each department, section or separate unit adopt Bylaws defining the policies and procedures of the organization and governance of the group.

1 - GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

1.1 Governance

Faculty members of the department are subject to provisions of the latest edition on the UT Faculty Handbook, the bylaws of the faculty of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, and UT Extension ("College bylaws"), and UT Board of Trustees policy. The UT Faculty Handbook is intended to be a general reference to University guidelines, policies, services, and resources. The College Bylaws are intended to supplement the UT Faculty Handbook and promote the orderly conduct of business. If the departmental bylaws conflict with University policies and procedures, University policies and procedures prevail.

1.2 Nature and Purpose

Extension, research, undergraduate and graduate teaching programs form the key mission areas of the department.

The mission of the Extension program is to provide leadership for developing, delivering, and evaluating current and relevant agricultural economics and resource development educational programs for decision-makers. Our vision for Tennesseans is to improve their knowledge, understanding, and application of economics to agricultural and rural issues.
The general mission of the department’s research program is to expand knowledge that can be used by private individuals, businesses, and public officials in decision making regarding the allocation of resources for production and distribution of goods and services related to agriculture and natural resources. Within this broad mission is the recognized concern for development of human resources, inputs into solutions of socioeconomic problems, and environmental quality, especially in rural areas. Because of the public funding support of the research program, it is imperative that the problems addressed in research be of substantial public interest. Specific research goals of the department are to address: a) the most significant economic problems of the commercial agricultural, food, and fiber sectors both at the farm and off-farm levels in the state and nation; b) economic and social problems of the small-scale or part-time farmer and problems in rural development; and c) the economic aspects of natural resource and environmental problems in rural areas.

The basic mission of the undergraduate teaching program is to provide majors and nonmajors with: a) a thorough understanding of social and economic aspects of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, related industries and rural areas; b) familiarity with business management principles applied to agriculture and agribusiness; c) an understanding and appreciation for basic theories and concepts of agricultural economics; d) a knowledge of problem-solving techniques and reasoning skills and how to apply them to real problems; e) an appreciation of diversity through international experience, and f) other skills needed for professional and technical careers related to agricultural economics and agribusiness. The graduate program mission is to provide students with more advanced knowledge of: a) the theory of economics and how it applies to agriculture, the food system, natural resources and rural people; b) quantitative analytical techniques in economics and business; and c) the methods of science in economics. The department also recognizes that assisting students with academic advising and career opportunities is essential.

In order to accomplish its missions, the department faculty must maintain competence in the uses and applications of the recent advances in theories and techniques in agricultural economics. In seeking to achieve the missions listed above using the best available methods, the department will best serve the needs of its various clientele groups and, simultaneously, achieve greater regional and national recognition in the professional disciplines. Furthermore, these programs will be of the highest benefit to Tennesseans and known nationally for excellence.

### 1.3 Shared Governance

The department adheres to a system of faculty governance that is administered by the department head. The department head is a voting faculty member. The department head is answerable directly to the dean of each division. The department head serves as the primary link between the department and the administration. Among the responsibilities of the head are administration of the Extension, research, and teaching agendas, personnel and facilities, financial matters, and curricular and academic affairs of the department.
The department head shall encourage the participation by the faculty in decision-making and departmental governance. The head should consult with the faculty and other employees on issues of concern to them. The head is required to uphold UT and UTIA policies and procedures. It is the responsibility of the head to arrange for the continuous administration of the department when physically absent from the office or when unable to function. One or more tenured faculty members in the department should be identified to have signatory authority to carry out ongoing responsibilities or to chair a department meeting. The head is to seek input from the faculty about the operation of the department regarding personnel evaluations, handling budgetary responsibilities and priorities, dealing with facilities issues, improving the student experience, obtaining new positions and assisting in the creation of job descriptions, achieving appropriate diversity goals, and representing the department to the Experiment Station, Extension, and College. The Head shall appoint assistant heads in the areas of Extension, research and teaching to assist with coordination and administration of the respective areas. The committee structure (see Departmental Bylaws Section 1.10) assists in the operation of the department.

1.4 Faculty Meetings

Departmental faculty meetings will be held at least twice a semester during the academic year. Faculty meetings can be called by the department head or by a majority of voting faculty members. Notice of a meeting should be at least one week prior to the meeting. It is the responsibility of eligible faculty members to inform the department head if they will be unable to attend a faculty meeting.

1.5 Voting Members

All regular faculty members (see Departmental Bylaws Section 3 for definition) are voting members. Other persons with Department appointments of at least 25 percent: a) visiting professors (see Section 4.2 of the UT Faculty Handbook for appointment criteria), b) administrators, c) regular faculty whose employment is shifted over 25 percent to another unit, d) other exempt departmental members, e) adjunct faculty (see Section 4.2 of the UT Faculty Handbook for appointment criteria), and f) retired regular faculty members with “post-retirement” appointments, may be extended voting rights by a two-thirds vote of the regular faculty members at a faculty meeting. The term of this voting right shall be included in the motion of approval. Voting rights so extended may be removed by a two-thirds vote of regular faculty members at a faculty meeting.
1.6 Quorum

A quorum of voting faculty members, a majority of voting faculty members, must be present at the commencement of the meeting in order to transact business. The withdrawal of any voting member after the commencement of a meeting shall have no effect on the existence of a quorum after a quorum has been established at such a meeting. The affirmative vote of at least the majority of those voting members present shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution or motion. Meetings without a quorum may have discussion of issues and announcement of activities.

1.7 Voting

Voting faculty members (see Departmental Bylaws Section 1.5) are entitled to one vote each. Other faculty members have the right to participate, but are not entitled to vote. Voting by voice or show of hands is used unless requested by a faculty member to be: (a) a secret written ballot of those present, or (b) a mail ballot within a specified period of time distributed to all voting members. Proxy voting shall not be allowed. Written secret ballots on matters of retention, appointments, and promotion or tenure will be requested from eligible faculty members unable to attend a meeting, and the department head shall arrange with those faculty members to receive their written votes in a timely fashion prior to the meeting. It is the responsibility of eligible faculty members to inform the department head if they will be unable to attend a faculty meeting.

1.8 Agenda

The departmental faculty meeting will be governed by a written agenda. The head will develop the agenda and include all items submitted by voting faculty members and committees of the department. A copy of the agenda will be provided to all members at least three working days prior to the meeting. Reports and other documents requiring departmental deliberation shall be submitted to voting faculty members at least three working days in advance of the meeting during which the reports of documents are to be considered. Any voting faculty member can add an item to the agenda for discussion purposes at a faculty meeting. Items to be voted on can be added to the agenda by a two-thirds vote of the faculty at the time of the faculty meeting.
1.9 Participation

All voting faculty members of the department are expected to attend and participate in departmental meetings. Exempt, nonexempt, student employees and other persons may be asked to attend departmental meetings by the department head. When matters arise that either the department head or the majority of the voting faculty members present consider to be appropriate for discussion exclusively by the voting faculty, other individuals will be excused. Faculty participation in tenure and promotion deliberations shall follow the procedures found in the Manual for Faculty Evaluation and Faculty Handbook.

1.10 Committees

Departmental committees (and their chairs) may be created and appointed by the department head. The composition and size of each standing committee are determined by the head, with the approval of the departmental faculty. Standing committee assignments are to be made annually by the start of the academic year. Among the standing committees are the Non-thesis Written Comprehensive Exam Committee, Undergraduate Program Committee (the chair is the representative to the CASNR Undergraduate Council and one member is designated as the representative to the CASNR Honors Program Committee), Graduate Program Committee (the chair is the representative to the CASNR Graduate Advisory Committee), Human Subjects, Agricultural Economics Development Fund, Extension Development Fund, Student/Faculty Awards, Mentoring, Recruiting, and Bylaws.

The department’s representatives to college level and other nondepartmental committees will be selected following the procedures in the College Bylaws. These committees include, but are not limited to, Key Placements; Recruitment; and Tenure and Promotion.

1.11 Rules of order

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern all departmental meetings in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or UT Faculty Handbook rules.

1.12 Secretary

The voting faculty shall elect a member to record all actions at departmental meetings and to place approved minutes in departmental records. Minutes of the previous departmental meetings shall be distributed within two weeks. These should be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting for approval.
1.13 Parliamentarian

The department head may appoint a parliamentarian from among the faculty members to assist in the conduct of meetings.

1.14 Department Head Searches

The search process for a new head shall follow the procedures outlined in the UT Faculty Handbook. Regular faculty of the department are eligible to be members of a head search committee. The regular faculty shall conduct a confidential vote for their choice of a head from the pool of candidates interviewed. A summary of the faculty discussion and a record of the vote will become part of the narrative of the search committee’s report and recommendation.

2. FACULTY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Faculty rights and responsibilities are outlined in Chapter 2 of the UT Faculty Handbook and other documents cited in the Handbook.

3. APPOINTMENT, EVALUATION, PROMOTION, TENURE AND REVIEW FOR ALL TENURE-TRACK AND TENURED FACULTY AND DEPARTMENT HEAD

The University of Tennessee and the Institute of Agriculture use five employee categories: Faculty, Other Academic, Exempt, Non-Exempt, and Student. The Faculty category includes persons who hold professorial faculty rank and whose primary appointments are to engage in Extension, research and/or teaching. Full-time faculty members are expected to have 100 percent commitments to the teaching, research, and public service missions of the department for a 12 month period. Academic year (9 month) and flex-year appointments (paid over 12 months) satisfy the 12 month requirement. Faculty members at the rank of instructor or above who have regular appointments of 75 percent or more of full-time employment in the department are termed regular faculty members. Regular faculty members constitute the core faculty to carry out the mission of the department.

Provisions and policies of the UT Faculty Handbook apply to persons employed by UT who are appointed in the “faculty” category in the four divisions of the Institute. All persons covered under provisions of this Faculty Handbook are also subject to the policies in the UT Personnel Policies and Procedures Statements.
3.1 Process of Appointment of New Faculty to Tenure-track Positions

The procedure for hiring Tenure-track faculty is guided by Departmental long-range plans (or strategic plans.) Proposals for specific positions will be taken to the Department Head. The Department Head will bring the proposal to the tenured and tenure-track faculty and the proposal will be approved with a majority vote. The Department Head will then seek approval from the appropriate dean(s). After gaining approval at the Dean's level, a search committee shall be formed by the Department Head. The search committee will consist of tenured and tenure-track faculty with at least one individual at each rank. The search committee will convene and create the formal job description and bring it to the faculty for a vote. Once the job description is approved by the faculty and the administration, the search committee will assume the responsibility of developing additional necessary materials, advertising the position, identifying candidates, calling a meeting open to the tenured and tenure-track faculty to discuss the identified candidates, developing an interview schedule, bringing their recommendation following the interviews to the tenured and tenure-track faculty for a vote, and, following the vote, reporting their recommendation to the Department Head. The Department Head will review the vote of the tenured and tenure-track faculty and the recommendation of the search committee and make a recommendation to the Dean(s).

The department will follow the process and use the criteria outlined in Chapter 3 of the UT Faculty Handbook and Appendix B of the College Bylaws for the appointment of new faculty to tenure-track positions using the criteria specified for appointment to specific ranks.

3.2 Emeritus/Emerita Professors

Professors at the time of retirement may be considered for the rank of Emeritus or Emerita in accordance with section 2.1.3 of the College Bylaws.

3.3 Process of Annual Review of Tenure-track Faculty

The Department Head will hold quarterly progress meetings with each tenure track faculty member and his/her mentor. Prior to the end of the calendar year, each tenure-track faculty member will prepare a retention dossier. The dossier will contain information as required and specified in the Manual of Faculty Evaluation. These materials will be made available to the tenured faculty at least two weeks prior to a called meeting of the department’s tenured faculty. The mentor of each tenure-track faculty member will make an assessment of the respective tenure-track person’s professional activities. Tenured faculty will have the opportunity to provide input during the meeting, as well. Following the discussion, all tenured faculty will vote on a recommendation to retain the tenure track person for another year and will vote separately on whether the person is making adequate progress toward meeting the criteria for tenure. Both votes will be by secret ballot. Faculty who are unable to attend the meeting will provide the head with their secret ballots prior to the meeting. Abstentions will be considered as
negative votes for either the retention or progress toward tenure decisions. The votes will be counted and verified during this faculty meeting. The vote and a summary of the deliberation written by one assistant head and the candidate’s mentor are used by the head in making a recommendation to the administration. If the faculty vote on retention is not unanimous or the head disagrees with the tenured faculty decision, the head will give the faculty an opportunity to provide a dissenting recommendation to the administration. The dissenting report will be submitted to the head within the administrative time frame, so it can be included with the materials provided to the administration. The written summary of the deliberation, vote and recommendations will be kept on file in accordance with university policies. The head will inform the faculty of subsequent actions beyond the department at his/her discretion. Notification of non-renewal will follow the provision of notice of non-renewal in the Faculty Handbook.

3.4 Tenure and Promotion

The Departmental Review Committee for tenure and promotion will consist of all tenured departmental members. Only faculty members of higher rank than the candidate will make recommendations on promotion and will vote on the promotion. Candidates will prepare a Tenure and/or Promotion Dossier following the format described in the Manual for Faculty Evaluation. Dossiers will be made available to the departmental review committee at least two weeks prior to a called meeting of the committee. The review committee will select a chair for the meeting(s) following the voting procedures in paragraph 1.7, above. The department head will attend the meeting(s) only to clarify issues and assure proper procedure is followed; he/she will not participate in the discussion or vote. The mentor of each candidate will summarize the candidate’s dossier and will present objective data on the candidate’s record and professional promise followed by an open discussion among committee members. Following the discussion, eligible committee members will vote on the candidate’s tenure or promotion by written, secret ballot that includes space for comments on strengths and weaknesses as well as for recording the vote. Separate ballots for tenure and for promotion will be used. Tenured faculty unable to attend the meeting will provide their secret ballot(s) to the department head prior to the meeting. Votes will be counted and results announced during the meeting. A simple majority of the votes cast in favor of tenure or promotion will constitute a positive recommendation. Abstentions will be counted as negative votes. Two members of the review committee (one assistant department head and the candidate’s mentor) will prepare a written summary of the discussion, the number of positive and negative votes, and the committee’s recommendation for each candidate. This document will be provided to the department head and the candidate. The department head will follow the procedures in the Manual of Faculty Evaluation in conducting an independent review of each candidate and preparing a letter that includes his or her recommendation. This letter will be provided to the candidate and the departmental review committee. Members of the committee and/or the candidate may individually or collectively submit dissenting statements to the committee’s recommendation and/or the department head’s recommendation which become part of the dossier according to the Institutes’ bylaws. The head will inform the faculty of subsequent actions.
3.5 Process of Annual Review for Non-tenured and Tenured Faculty

Each faculty member, tenured and tenure-track, is reviewed annually according to the procedures specified in Chapter 3 of the UT Faculty Handbook. At the end of the calendar year each tenure-track and tenured faculty member will be provided with the requisite administrative forms to document the year’s professional activity with respect to teaching, research, public service and grants. These forms will provide the basis for the annual review of the faculty member. Another form will focus on expectations for coming year. The head will meet with each faculty member by the end of March of the following year to provide the faculty member with an assessment of the previous year’s professional activity and expectations for the current year. Both the head and faculty member will sign the evaluation form, which will then be forwarded to the appropriate dean.

3.6 Cumulative Review

A cumulative review of a tenured faculty member is triggered by the person’s annual reviews as specified in the UT Faculty Handbook. Procedures for the cumulative review are provided in the Manual for Faculty Evaluation.

3.7 Annual Evaluation of the Head

Annual evaluations of the head by the department’s regular faculty shall occur in accordance with the procedures established by the UT Faculty Handbook.

4. APPOINTMENT, EVALUATION, AND APPEALS FOR ALL NON-TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

Persons employed by UT who are appointed in the Other Academic, Exempt, Non-Exempt, and Student categories are excluded from provisions of the UT Faculty Handbook, but are covered under the provisions of the UT Personnel Policies and Procedures Statements and the UT Extension Policy Handbook.

Additional faculty members help to meet the needs of the department. These include non-tenure-track teaching positions, non-tenure-track research positions, adjunct faculty, and visiting faculty, and persons employed full-time for less than 12 months, part-time for less than 9 months, and those who volunteer service at no cost. Emeritus faculty may continue to provide service for a period of time after retirement.

Research assistant professor, research associate professor, and research professor positions are for faculty hired to conduct research. Normally, they are not expected to teach. Criteria for appointment to these positions are in Chapter 4 of the Faculty Handbook. These faculty will be reviewed annually by the tenured faculty with respect to their meeting the
conditions of their employment. Prior to the end of the calendar year, each research faculty member will prepare a retention dossier. The dossier will contain information as required and specified in the Manual of Faculty Evaluation. These materials will be made available to the tenured faculty at least two weeks prior to a called meeting of the department’s tenured faculty. The supervisor of each research faculty member will make an assessment of the respective research person’s professional activities. Tenured faculty will have the opportunity to provide input during the meeting, as well. Following the discussion, all tenured faculty will vote on a recommendation to retain the person for another year. The votes will be by secret ballot. Faculty who are unable to attend the meeting will provide the head with their secret ballots prior to the meeting. Abstentions will be considered as negative votes. The votes will be counted and verified during this faculty meeting. The vote and an anonymous summary of the deliberation will be used by the head in making a recommendation to the administration. If the faculty vote is not unanimous or the head disagrees with the tenured faculty decision, the head will give the dissenting faculty an opportunity to provide a recommendation to the administration. The written summary of the deliberation, vote and recommendations will be kept on file in accordance with university policies.

The department will follow the process outlined in Chapter 4 of the UT Faculty Handbook for the appointment of new faculty to non-tenure-track positions. Criteria specified in that chapter for appointment to specific ranks will be used. Proposals for specific non-tenure track faculty and/or instructor positions will be taken to the Department Head. The Department Head will bring the proposal to the tenured and tenure-track faculty and the proposal will be approved with a majority vote. The Department Head will then seek approval from the appropriate dean(s). After gaining approval at the Dean’s level, a search committee shall be formed by the Department Head. The search committee will consist of tenured and tenure-track faculty with at least one individual at each rank. The search committee will convene and create the formal job description and bring it to the faculty for a vote. Once the job description is approved by the faculty and the administration, the search committee will assume the responsibility of developing additional necessary materials, advertising the position, identifying candidates, calling a meeting open to the tenured and tenure-track faculty to discuss the identified candidates, developing an interview schedule, bringing their recommendation following the interviews to the tenured and tenure-track faculty for a vote, and, following the vote, reporting their recommendation to the Department Head as in accordance with the Faculty Handbook. The Department Head will review the vote of the tenured and tenure-track faculty and the recommendation of the search committee and make a recommendation to the Dean(s).

5. FACULTY RIGHTS OF APPEAL

Faculty have the right to pursue a grievance through an appeals channel if departmental and college bylaws have not been followed, as specified in Chapter 5 of the UT Faculty Handbook.
6. BENEFITS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Benefits and leaves of absence are described in Chapter 5 of the UT Faculty Handbook.

7. COMPENSATED OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Compensated outside activities must be consistent with University policy and the UT Faculty Handbook.

8. REVISION OF DEPARTMENTAL BYLAWS

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall originate from the head, from a Bylaws Committee, or from a regular faculty member. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to voting faculty members for consideration at a faculty meeting.

The proposed amendments shall be distributed with the agenda for the meeting at which they are to be discussed. However, a vote to consider the amendments by the voting faculty members shall occur at a subsequent meeting when the matter will have been included again on the agenda.

An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all voting faculty members will be required for adoption of amendments to the Bylaws, pending approval by the university.

The departmental Bylaws will be approved by an affirmative two-thirds vote of all department faculty members.