

**Research Council Meeting
January 8, 2014
Blount Hall
Room A004**

FINAL

Attendees

Christine, Shepardson, Chair	Ramki Kalyanaraman
Benjamin Auerbach	Tom Ladd
Chris Boake	Holly Mercer
George Dodds	Robert Muenchen
Bill Dunne	Agricola Odoi
Taylor Eighmy	Ken Phillips
Joanne Hall	Greg Reed
Sadie Hutson	Yeager Kenton

Guest

Lee Han and Kelly Steele

Remarks by the Chair - Shepardson

Christine Shepardson thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them back from the break. She also welcomed Taylor Eighmy and congratulated him on being named a National Academy of Inventors Fellow.

The November 13, 2013 minutes were not presented to the council because a quorum was not present.

Strategic Plan Presentation from Office of Research and Engagement – Taylor Eighmy

Taylor Eighmy held an open discussion on a document he distributed. The document was titled Top 25 Strategic Plan of the Research & Engagement Advisory Council (REAC): Proposed Top 25 Research Strategic Plan. This document has been revised based on suggestions from the Research Advisory Council since the last time Eighmy discussed it with this group. This document is getting close to being finalized, and input from the Research Council is very important. The Office of Research and Engagement has to double the level of research expenditures, federal and total sources, within the next eight to ten years.

Eighmy explained that the information on the document began with benchmarking that begun in 2010. Since then, the responsibilities of the items on the document have been assigned to specific individuals to assist in getting the items and goals fulfilled.

Eighmy asked for recommendations, comments, and approval on the document before presenting it to the Associate Deans, Top 25 Implementation Leader Group, and the Cabinet. This meeting is for the Research Council to give Eighmy feedback and their on this document.

Eighmy gave a preview of the document to help everyone understand it and selected individual items on the document to explain and gave examples on what was being done to implement them. Eighmy explained that the color coding indicates key major categories which are: Total Research Expenditures Growth (TREs); Federal Research Expenditures growth (FREs); Engaged Outreach; Faculty Support; Student Support; and Research Infrastructure Support. The Office of Research and Engagement will be very close to where they need to be if the following categories are successfully implemented: Total Research Expenditures Growth (TREs); Federal Research Expenditures Growth (FREs); and Faculty Support. Primary responsible persons have been assigned for each of these categories. Each of these categories reflect an activity that will produce either federal research expenditures; federal research expenditures which are part of the total but requires special attention; aspects related to what we need to do to be currently engaged; and what we need to be doing relative to faculty support to produce expenditures through this research infrastructure.

Eighmy will speak to the Research Council at the February 12, 2014 meeting about the Strategic Action Plan for the Office of Research and Engagement. He will be presenting a document that came out of the three Listening Sessions last year and the year before. The Listening Sessions were attended by assistant professors, associate professors, professors, researchers, department heads, deans, governor chairs, institute and center directors, and etc. (approximately 300 people).

Some items on the document that was distributed were randomly selected for discussion and examples were given on how items were being implemented. The Research Council made the following suggestions:

Line 39 List of “Community of Scholars” will be shared with the Research Council to get an example of how to create a community of scholar. Shepardson was interested in a non-science model. There is not a formal policy for this for organizing a community of scholar, but there should be a desire to collaborate. Shepardson will discuss this with Reed and Suzanne Lodato.

Line 37 Han expressed faculty’s concern about writing proposals and getting funding and being identified as a scholar. Eighmy explained that he is responsible for increasing expenditures, but there is a metric in the Strategic Plan which is under John Zomchick, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs, leadership. Eighmy will check with Zomchick about this.

Items 41 & 43 A decision was made that “+3 each” in item 43 will be changed to “+3”. Eighmy explained that Item 43 is a cumulative of NEH Fellows, Guggenheims, and Fulbright awards per year, not 3 of each per year. Eighmy and Zomchick are working on incentives for these awards.

Item 40 Kelly Steele asked about item 40. Eighmy plans to meet with the deans regarding colleges having more research development staff. Some colleges already have this in place and they work very closely with the Office of Research and Engagement.

Kalyanaraman asked who would be responsible for implementing these actions. Eighmy discussed how some of these items are already being implemented by some colleges with the assistance their faculty and staff and the assistance of the lead person listed on the document.

Item 40 Phillips asked that the “Action Item” include professional staff.

Shepardson commented that faculty are frustrated about the monetary buy-in action item. She suggested that the document be presented as a piece of the Strategic Plan to get the faculty’s full buy-in. Eighmy explained that there is a website, a mission statement, chancellor’s presentation, and etc. which are in a giant master table. Scholarly and publications are addressed in the master table, as well as other things. Eighmy stated that he appreciated Shepardson’s comments and realizes that all this needs to tie back to the daily life of a faculty member. Eighmy suggested inviting Zomchick to a meeting to discuss faculty’s expectations in the Strategic Plan.

The document distributed will be posted on a Strategic Plan website when it is finalized. The master spreadsheet is one giant spreadsheet. Eighmy will send the document discussed today to the Research Council Members.

Eighmy asked if everyone agreed to the metrics on this document with the suggested changes. There were no objections. There were not enough Senator’s present to take a vote, but Eighmy took the comments from the people present as an informal approval.

Upcoming Speakers

Shepardson mentioned the upcoming speakers:

- Feb. 12: Tim Hulse, Chancellor’s Honor Program, (new) director
Taylor Eighmy, Strategic Action Plan
- Mar. 12: Suzanne Lodato, Faculty Development Team, (new) director;
Charlie Senn, Research Development Team, director
- April 9: Lynne Parker (JDRD process)

Shepardson will try to get Zomchick scheduled to speak to the Research Council on March 12th .

Business

Reports of RC Committees, as needed

Chancellor’s Awards proposals are due January 24, 2014

By-Laws Committee, chaired by Martin Griffin, plans to get active soon

Summer Graduate Research Assistantship applications are due February 14, 2014

Tina Shepardson thanked Lee Han for chairing the Research Council Meeting in November while she was out of the country.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Jane Taylor

Community of Scholars

1. Environmental Pathogens: through M-CERV (existing, Becker); UTK/UTIA
2. Neuroscience Network: NNET (existing, Prosser); UTK/UTIA/GSM
3. Plant Research: through PRC (existing, Stewart); UTK/UTIA
4. Transforming Health and Healthcare Delivery: (forming, Phillips); UTK/UTIA/GSM
5. Cancer: (forming, Goldman); UTK/UTIA/GSM
6. Understanding and Coping with Human Trauma: (forming – may be a combination of existing Social Science ORUs – CSSJ, CSWS); UTK
7. Water and the Environment: (forming, Cox); UTK/UTIA
8. Toward a Bio-Based Economy: (unknown); UTK/UTIA
9. Global Security: (maybe Baker Center and Institute for Nuclear Security, Murray); UTK
10. Energy Policy: (maybe Baker center as lead, Murray); UTK/UTIA
11. Climate Change: (needed, maybe Fu); UTK/UTIA
12. Green Economy: (needed, Shefner); UTK/UTIA

ORUs that may be or able to convert to Communities of Scholars:

- Center for Enhancing Education in Mathematics and Sciences
- Center for Environmental Biotechnology
- Institute for Secure and Sustainable Environment
- Metabolic Translational Research Initiative
- Sustainable Energy Education and Research Center
- Joint Institute for Advanced Materials
- Joint Institute for Biological Sciences
- Joint Institute for Computational Sciences
- Joint Institute for Heavy Ion Research
- Joint Institute for Neutron Sciences

Other seminars/colloquia:

- Antiquity Studies (Classics, Religious Studies, History, Philosophy)
- Food in History (History, Anthropology, Geography)
- German Literature and Philosophy (German, Philosophy, History)

The existing faculty research seminars are:

- Freedom (Philosophy);
- Transatlantic Enlightenment (History, English, French, German);
- 19th c English Literature (English);
- Late Antiquity (Religious Studies, History);
- Modern Germany History, (German);
- After Wars (History, German, English)