

University of Tennessee Research Council
January 25, 2010
University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337
3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Ken Stephenson, Chair	Jill Keally
Bob Cargile	Jun Lin
Robert Daverman	Abby Mello
Brad Fenwick	Greg Reed
Matthew Fleisher	Joan Rentsch
Joanne Hall	Carol Tenopir
Michael Handelsman	Tim Young
Yuri Kamychkov	

Guest Attending:

Ray DeGennaro	Vena Long
Carol Malkemus	Pia Wood

Welcoming

Ken Stephenson thanked everyone for attending. He opened the meeting by saying that the Research Council voted in December 2009 to send a letter to Susan Martin, Provost, and Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor for Research, regarding pending budgets and its effect on research. Dr. Susan Martin, Provost, Dr. Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor for Research, and Dean Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School, will be leading a discussion later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The November 23, 2009 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Update from Office of Research – Brad Fenwick

Federal budget is no longer growing as the biggest funding sponsor. Federal agency's budgets are flat. Competition will be steeper so the university should seek funding from corporate financing and foundations. Some good awards have recently been won which is a stamp of approval and good recognition. The second quarter report showed that funding had grown over 54% this year. Projections are not as good as last year and it is possible that the institution is reaching its capacity. The Office of Research has a program to increase the number faculty winning awards and Bob Porter is heading this program.

Update from Office of Research – Greg Reed

The Office of Research will have a full page in the Beacon this week to recognize faculty who have been recognized this past year.

Undergraduate Research has expanded into a full week (March 21-26, 2010)

- March 21st – University of Tennessee Symphony Orchestra Ensemble Concert

- March 22nd – Research Week Key note Address, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander and Honors Symposium
- March 23rd – Not scheduled
- March 24th & 25th – The 14th Annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURēCA)
- The first edition of the Undergraduate Journal will be released the first day of EURēCA.

Some undergraduate students will be participating in Posters at the Capitol on February 3, 2010. This will help bring awareness of undergraduate research to state representatives.

The announcement to submit applications for the Summer Undergraduate Internships and Summer Graduate Research Assistantships is posted. There is no funding available for undergraduate students to participate in research during regular semesters.

Ken Stephenson introduced Dr. Susan Martin, Provost, Dr. Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor for Research, and Dean Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School. They led a discussion on the effect budget cuts will have on research and graduate education. Susan Martin commented that the institution has lost 20% of their allocation and can't afford to lose any more. The Chancellor's number one plan is revenue enhancement, and his number two plan is efficiency. The Chancellor has hired a consultant to assist with a strategic plan. The consultant took previous strategic goals and the Chancellor's goals, and will report back to the Chancellor with a first draft of a strategic plan next week. Three faculty on campus have been appointed to shepherd the strategic plan. They will help set goals and missions. Susan Martin asked everyone to submit their ideas. This will be announced next week. Sarah Gardial is initiating steps to collect information. Presently, there are no plans to evaluate programs. All programs should be looking to see what is affordable and what is not. Colleges and departments should look at their programs to see which is most cost effective – master students or Ph.D. students. Carolyn Hodges commented that many colleges and departments are already looking at this process.

Brad Fenwick commented that the university has the ability to be more entrepreneurial and competitive and we have the faculty to do it. We have quality faculty that cause students to be willing to pay more for their education. Some adjustments may need to be made but not major cuts.

Ken Stephenson pointed out that the Research Council is to represent research and the extra duties expected of faculty such as teaching, undergraduate research, graduate research, grant writing, and etc.

Susan Martin commented that the Governor would like this institution to be in the top 25 institutions. The UTK/ORNL collaboration will only affect a few faculty. ORNL is anticipating millions of funding dollars. This collation will not have a big impact except bring additional resources. Brad Fenwick commented that ORNL is now engaged with campus directly and recognizes the campus as a research campus. There is potential for graduate education.

Ken Stephenson asked that they think about what is happening on ground level and think about where to obtain resources to make progress. The solution will not be the same for each unit. There needs to be a goal even if funding is low.

There should be a

- Goal
- Road Map
- Resources to get there

Susan Martin asked everyone to keep an eye out for information about the Strategic Plan and provide information.

Schedule for ORU Hearings – Brad Fenwick

The ORU Hearing process is same as last year. The allocation of funds is a competitive process.

- Three page written progress review and proposal due April 12th to the Office of Research
- Public presentations/budget hearings will be on April 29th & 30th.

Brad Fenwick asked for volunteers to be on the review panel.

Joan Rentsch is Chair of the Center Review Committee. She found it very interesting seeing what is going on in various centers. She encouraged others to be on the committee. There were four centers reviewed last semester and their evaluation will be announced soon.

New Business

Ken Stephenson invited Vice President Milhoun to speak on the Cherokee Campus but he was not available. Brad Fenwick gave a brief update on the JIAM building. There is 1/3 less funds to build the JIAM building than originally planned. The building committee will prepare a plan to present to the Chancellor on whether to build a shell or reduce the size of the building. JIAM will be the first building to be built on the Cherokee Campus.

Ken Stephenson asked if there were other issues colleges and departments have to deal with such as solar initiative, ethanol, Governor's Chairs, and energy sciences initiative. He asked for items to put on future agendas such as travel reimbursement, and the new ledgers.

Brad Fenwick commented that NSF took research training under its charge. All students who are working on research (undergraduate, graduate, post docs) are now required to take the "Responsible Conduct Training". All PIs will get this notice. The training is available on the Office of Research's website.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor