

University of Tennessee Research Council

February 13, 2006
Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair	Julie Little
Joanne M. Hall, Vice-Chair	Vena Long
Pauline Bayne	Roland Mote
Billie J. Collier	Stefan Richter
Bill Dunne	Ken Stephenson
Ranjan Ganguly	Carol Tenopir
Arlene Garrison	John Wodarski
Frank Harris	Clif Woods
Tom Ladd	

Minutes from the December 12, 2005 meeting were approved.

Vice Chancellor Woods reported that the Governor included an additional \$4.0 million in his proposed budget for Governor's Chairs. Monies from the state are to be matched by ORNL. A number of searches are underway, but no Governor's Chairs have been appointed thus far.

Dr. Woods reported that budget hearings had begun and would last through the month of February. The office of Research request would seek to retain some of the F&A recoveries following from the adjustment of the F&A rate in order to provide a discretionary fund for requests that regularly come to Dr. Woods and to provide a recurring pool of funds to cover faculty start-up needs. He also is requesting support for an IT person, a biosafety officer (to be shared with CVM), and a staff position for a person to assist groups of faculty in creating large, complex proposals.

Dr. Woods also reported on progress to re-organize three of the environmentally oriented centers (EERC, JIEE and WMERI). The three would be combined into one center—Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment. A national search for a director is underway and Dr. Gary Sayler is serving as interim director.

Dr. Collier reported on research compliance matters. With greater emphasis on security, both radiation safety and biosafety are seeing the need to consolidate as many facilities as possible in order to be most efficient in deploying upgraded security measures. In the next several weeks there will be a communication with the Deans and Department Heads outlining some of the needs for consolidation where possible and the increased security.

Dr. Collier reported that the faculty workshops on export control issues were going well. UTSI is going through the process of obtaining an export license with the assistance of the Knoxville Office of Research. Dr. Dorcas O'Rourke, the attending veterinarian for the Knoxville campus has taken a position elsewhere and there is a search for her replacement. Our ALAAC accreditation review is coming up this year and a group from Memphis will provide a “red team” review prior to that visit to make sure we have addressed all the issues.

On COEUS, activity is increasing in the face of OMB directives that federal agencies receive proposals electronically following an aggressive schedule. (NIH was scheduled to receive all proposals electronically by October 2006 but this date has slipped to February 2007 because of a number of glitches.) Institutions are scurrying to come up to speed. UT is in a good position to comply based on the work to date with COEUS and the tasks to be implemented in the near future.

Dr. Handler called attention to status of the federal budget (Mrs. Mashburn was on travel) and pointed out the significant proposed increases for DOE, NSF and NIST, all part of the President’s “American Competitiveness Initiative” in response to the NAS’ report “The Gathering Storm.”

One item from the reports from the research deans concerned extending the Chancellor’s Awards to include graduate as well as undergraduate research. Dr. Harris agreed to follow-up and come back with a proposed mechanism to include graduate research.

There were no reports from Center/Institute Reviews or Research Data & Tangible Research Property subcommittees. Applications for summer graduate research awards are due February 24, 2006.

The remainder of the meeting centered on the Faculty Senate’s pending resolution regarding “open Access.” Several issues were raised including need for careful examination of the cost model(s) for open access as there is a shift of cost to the university; how are materials disseminated; concern about long term access in an open access environment. In the end, Dr. Handler sought volunteers from the Research Council to be seconded to the library committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.