

University of Tennessee Research Council

February 26, 2007

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair	Stefanie Ohnesorg
Bill Blass	Stefan Richter
Wayne T. Davis	Lee Riedinger
Arlene Garrison	Carl Sams
Larry McKay	Ken Stephenson
C. Roland Mote	Carol Tenopir
Carol Malkemus	Jason P. Wright

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from January 29, 2007 were approved as presented.

Comments from the Chair

Dr. Handler reported that we need to think about elections. Dr. Handler has served two years and announced that he will not run again. He asked that all Council members consider running or nominating someone for Chair. *Nominees will be announced at the March meeting and the new Chair will be elected at the April meeting.*

Comments from the Research Office and Associate Deans:

Dr. Riedinger announced that budget hearings are being held this week. The hearing for the Office of Research will be on Friday at 2 pm. Most of the budget requests are compliance related.

Dr. Riedinger reviewed the discussions that have continued about the Cherokee campus. The new electrical and computer engineering building is slated for construction on the east campus with groundbreaking this spring (May) and construction to begin in the June-July timeframe.

Dr. Riedinger gave an update of Governor's Chair searches (three offers out with one rejection but no acceptances at this time), and an update of the search for the Vice Chancellor for Research (airport interviews by mid-April).

Dr. Garrison reported for Dr. Harris who was in Nashville on a budget issue. She reminded the Research Council of the SARIF award competitions and the EURCA. She thanked the Council members who were helping with award selections.

Dr. Handler reported on the federal relations front as Mrs. Mashburn was in DC. He reported that the Federal FY 2007 would be basically a zero year for earmarks. Requests for 2008 must be submitted by a Member of Congress. And total earmarks for 2008 are expected to be about half of the prior totals.

Dr. Davis reported that the merger of Electrical and Computer Engineering with Computer Science is going well with a target of July 1. The new building will be home to most of the faculty from both groups, with the exception of ICL and some teaching laboratories which may need to be placed elsewhere. The new building will have a large clean room, offices, labs and classrooms.

Dr. Davis reported on his evaluation of the impact of the Continuing Resolution (CR) on awards during the UT 2007 Fiscal Year. Many agencies have delayed awards to universities due to uncertainties about the CR, and award levels to his college as well as other campus units are lower than usual for this point in the year. While it is anticipated that the awards will catch up now that the Federal budget for 2007 has been settled, the awards may be delayed until after July 1 and thus appear in the 07 Federal FY but not in the UT FY 07. Since the College of Engineering has a deficit budget, this could have a big impact on graduate students in the college.

Old Business:

Dr. Handler reported that the Chancellor's awards committee was in place and will meet later this week.

Dr. Handler reported that center reviews for the current cycle will be completed before summer.

New Business:

Dr. Handler reported that he will convene the group to discuss the Research Data Policies and that they plan to send something to the Faculty Senate by summer.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM with a concluding reminder to submit nominations for Chair to Dr. Handler. Nominees must be current or past Senators.