

**Research Council Meeting
February 1, 2012
Executive Dining Room, University Center
Room 327**

FINAL

Attendees

Lee Han, Chair
Doug Birdwell
Chris Boake
Joanne Deeken
Bill Dunne
Joanne Hall
Tom Handler

Yuri Kamyshev
Bob Muenchen
Kim Newkirk
Stephen Paddison
Ken Phillips
Greg Reed
Lee Riedinger

Guest

Carol Malkemus
Dave Washburn

Lee Han welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The November 9, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

Lee Han introduced Lee Riedinger, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research. Wes Hines went back to Nuclear Engineering as Department Head. Lee Riedinger discussed how the Chancellor asked him to take this position. This is the third time he has been in this position and he is happy to be working with this group. He complimented the Office of Research staff on how their services have improved in the past few years.

Lee Riedinger discussed how the Office of Research has a strong Proposal Development Team and how proposals have increased since the past twenty years. However, during the past fiscal year proposals declined by 7% and the total dollar amount of funds requested has declined by 42%. Awards each year affects the following (3) years. The goal is to understand why this is happening and turn it around. There was a discussion among Research Council members about DOE's Review Panel process changing and uncertainly in Congress not knowing what budgets in DOE are going to be. It was suggested that the President's Office at the University of Tennessee and the Office of Research inform the media on how this affects the university.

Lee Riedinger discussed that Mike Pazzani was on campus recently to talk to the Chancellor and others regarding the Vice Chancellor for Research position.

Lee Riedinger discussed that UTK had 5 proposals last year that were in \$20-30M range and this year there aren't any over \$10M.

Greg Reed reviewed the various award deadlines approaching:

- Chancellor Research Awards – will be posted electronically next week for the committee to review.
- ORU Proposal deadline is February 6th and the hearings are March 5 & 6th. All proposals will be posted on the ORU website. Lee Han encouraged the Research Council members to attend the ORU Budget Hearings.

Lee Han introduced David Washburn, University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) Vice President. David Washburn came from the University of Illinois and started here on November 2, 2011. David Washburn gave a presentation and answered questions from the Research Council Members. UTRF consists of a non-profit entity owned by the university. There is an office in Knoxville and one in Memphis. Washburn discussed four projects under UTRF: Tech Transfer; Genera; Solar; and Real Estate. He presented the following topics concerning the Knoxville campus:

- Numbers of inventions disclosures, US patents filed, and patents granted at UTK.
- Issues related to licensing and options; agreements; strategies; and revenues since 2009.
- UTRF Goals for 2013 has not been finalized but will build on existing status and grow each year.
- System for Technology Commercialization: UTRF; Investment; Facilities (Plan to walk halls and look for inventions.)
- Target UTRF staff will include (4) Licensing Associates by end of June 2012.
- Investment: Maturation Grants; Angels, and Seed Capital; and Venture Capital
- Facilities: (1) The Incubator on the Ag Campus – Startups currently has 5 attendants; (2) Cherokee Farms
- America Invents Act to be effective in March 2013.

Greg Reed reported on the activities of the Centers Review Committee, in the absence of the Committee Chair Martin Griffin. Three centers were under review in Fall 2011. The review committee has recommended that one of the centers to be continued; one center to be closed; and more information is needed to properly evaluate one center.

SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Committee's report was given by Bill Dunne. The committee reviewed thirteen major proposals which are proposals over \$5,000 and eight proposals that were less than \$5,000. Eight of the major proposals were funded and all of the proposals that were \$5,000 or less were funded. The committee suggested that consideration be given to disaffiliate the infrastructural proposals which are \$5,000 or less.

Lee Han mentioned the status of the Research Center/Lab Web Site Template, which is still outstanding. Wes Hines, now back to the Nuclear Engineering Department, is still seeing this effort through.

Bylaws Committee Report was distributed and the recommended changes were explained by Joanne Hall. The current bylaws need wording changes on some of the incorrect titles or obsolete functionalities. The Research Council had a lengthy discussion about the recommended changes. Doug Birdwell made the following motion and it was seconded by Tom Handler: combine 1.3 and 1.7 to read "The Research Council Chair has the option to appoint up to two voting members to obtain a better balance. Each voting member has a one year term". Research Council also had a discussion on item 1.6. Lee Han asked Joanne Hall to make the suggested changes and discuss the changes with the Bylaws Committee through e-mail, and present a revised report to the Research Council at the next meeting.

The universities new hiring procedure was discussed by the Research Council. The new procedure is not user friendly for hiring faculty and post docs. Greg Reed suggested inviting someone from Human Resources office to attend a Research Council Meeting to describe their intentions. Lou Gross' handout of concerns over new HR on-line application requirements for UTK Post-Docs. Greg Reed explained that the Chancellor has appointed two committees (Faculty Compensation Committee and Staff Compensation Committee) to get UT to the Top 25 university structure for each position.

Bob Muenchen gave a brief update on the computer converting process. The new system has ten times more power with no additional cost. Software is being added as time goes along.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Jane Taylor