

Research Council Meeting
February 2, 2011, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Ken Stephenson	Jennifer Hendricks
Chris Boake	Wes Hines
Bob Cargile	Baoshan Huang
JoAnne Deeken	Yuri Kamyshkov
Bill Dunne	Clea McNeely
Martin Griffin	Bob Muenchen
Joanne Hall	Stephen Paddison
Lee Han	Ken Phillips
Federico Harte	Greg Reed
	Steven Yen

Guest Attending:

Carol Malkemus

Opening Remarks by Ken Stephenson, Chair

Ken Stephenson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The December 1, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted and will be posted on the web page.

Ken Stephenson is the Chair on one of the Top 25 Research Task Forces subcommittees. He is soliciting help to form a small group to help formulate goals, rationales, data sources, costs, impacts, and so forth. Ken Stephenson's initiative is to try to discover what faculty workloads are other than research. This varies so much in various departments that it is hard to determine. Research Council members who are interested in discussing and/or developing this should contact him.

Update from the Office of Research

Wes Hines

The first quarter and second quarter numbers from the Office of Research are out and the gross numbers are good. Due to TERA not being fully operational, the college numbers are not all available but the gross numbers are in. The following is a comparison to first two quarters of last year:

Proposal submitted were up 13%

Awards received were down 23%

Expenditures were up 13%

Stimulus money is going away and there is a little hit expected from that in the future; disappointed on awards received; (there are some big proposals sitting out there with good potential to hit); and happy

to see that proposals submitted were up over last year. Even without stimulus money (10-15%) we still have growth.

Wes Hines discussed a new consulting firm, SMI Consultants, who the System has hired to help with our federal efforts. The SMI consultants and Kurt Schlieter, DC Lobbyist, visited on campus last week and met with the Top 25 Task Force, center directors, associate deans for research and a few deans. Kurt Schlieter is the Head Lobbyist on the Hill in DC. SMI Consultants is a lobbying firm that is there to help faculty get involved and engaged with program officers at federal agencies. We still have to go through the System to get access to them. The meeting was for the consultants to get to know, in more detail who we are, where we need help, and then try to develop long term federal funding with various agencies. Researchers should go through Wes Hines who will take requests through the System and to our lobbyist. The idea with this is to get faculty connected with program managers and program directors in the agencies. Kurt Schlieter works on the Hill to get funding to agencies of interest. One of the goals is for researchers to work with program officers earlier in the RFP development process. Hopefully, this will help faculty/researchers be well positioned to have a good competitive proposal. Send an e-mail to Wes Hines if you are interested in who controls certain money or a certain agency. He will forward it and try to get you an answer. SMI Consultants replaced Cornerstone Consultants. Wes Hines discussed a partnership that UTK is trying to build with Y-12 such as the one they have with ORNL. This partnerships would include such things as Joint Faculty Agreement and joint visitors. They are also trying to start a JDRD program to mesh with Y-12's PDRD program. This would be an engagement in many areas of research not just sciences and engineering.

Wes Hines gave an update on the JIAM building. The plans are to send it to the Fire Marshall by the end of this month. Plans are to put it out for bid in April and to break ground in June.

Wes Hines gave an update on the search for a Joint Institute for Computational Science Director. A couple of candidates are coming in to interview later this month. There will not be a campus-wide open forum to meet these candidates. Tenured departments who have related research will be involved in the interviews.

Wes Hines discussed the Chancellor's attitude and interest toward research. His attitude and interest is as strong as it has ever been. Wes Hines is encouraged by the way the Chancellor thinks research fits into the Top 25. He has encouraged the Provost and Chancellor to be more vocal to the public and faculty about research. Chancellor Cheek will be visiting the Office of Research on February 23, 2011 and talk to Office of Research Staff and the Associate Deans for Research. He will discuss where he thinks research fits into the Top 25 Program and his vision for research.

Chris Boake explained the process of EPSCOR and how funding is determined.

Greg Reed

The Fall 2010 Research Centers Review Committee has completed their review and submitted their recommendations. Their recommendations were approved. Greg Reed is in the process of talking to each Dean for each Center reviewed and will then talk to the Center Directors. Greg Reed thanks the committee for a thorough and well done job and coming up with some good recommendations.

Greg Reed announced deadlines coming up:

Chancellor's Honors Award Nominations deadline was January 28th. There were a little less than 20 nominations received for each category.

SARIF Graduate Research Assistantship Applications are due Feb. 18, 2011.

Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Applications are due Mar. 9, 2011.

EURēCA applications are due Feb. 11, 2010 and the event will be Mar. 30 & 31, 2011.

ORU Proposals are due Feb. 7, 2011 and the budget hearings will be Mar. 7 & 8th. The Office of Research would like members of the Research Council to be a part of the jury panel.

Greg Reed discussed a new initiative under the Strategic Plan which is Undergraduate Research. They are putting together some proposals to expand undergraduate research. Education research makes it clear those students who get engaged with faculty in research or creative activity graduate with a higher GPA and in less time than their counter partners that do not get involved in that while they are undergraduate students. Because of this, this data will be one of the Strategic Plan's Initiatives in the undergraduate part of the Strategic Plan. The Office of Research made arrangements with a student in Information Sciences to build for the Office of Research an interactive website in order to help facilitate the knowledge and matching of undergraduate students that are interested in having an experience and faculty who are interested in having students have that experience. Part of this website would be similar to Craig's list activity. Part of the website would be listing the inventory of all existing undergraduate activities which will show faculty and student activity. Greg Reed asked for faculty volunteers to beta test it to contact him. Research Week will be used as a venue to make the campus aware of this Undergraduate Listserv if the beta test is successful. It will also be posted on the Office of Research's website; discussed at orientation; and a brochure is being designed to distribute to students.

New Business

Serena Matsunage, Huron Consulting Group, Health & Educations Consultants, was the guest speaker and gave an overview of the strategic planning initiatives currently underway so that faculty can find avenues for input. She gave the background on the Top 25 Initiatives and where we stand broadly. The goal was to come up with an executive level score card where we could review UTK versus select group of target peers. This information is posted on the Chancellor's website and the Provost website. Serena Matsunage discussed how they came about to identify the peer schools, how they benchmarked when it came to research and how the score card is laid out. Serena Matsunage discussed how the Huron Consultants have been interacting with the Top 25 Committee and the subcommittees and collecting data. She briefed the Research Council on the broader plan which has five task force groupings. They are undergraduate education; graduate education; research; faculty; and infrastructure and resources. She gave an update on each task force group's status and how they will integrate the plans into the Top

25. Wes Hines then explained the activities of the research group in more detail. Action plans will be developed and put out for comments. The Research Council is represented by the Senate Committee. The rankings will change over years, but the consultants will structure an annual check point of the theme metric of how UTK improved and how UTK compares with peers. This is a continuous study. Ken Stephenson thanked Serena Matsunage for her presentation.

Ken Stephenson announced a Faculty Forum on the new NRC ranking data will be on March 9, 2011 and encouraged the Research Council Members to attend.

Greg Reed gave an update on the Vice Chancellor for Research position search. Airport interviews will be Feb. 3 & 4, 2011. Campus interviews will be by the end of February. There will be open forums for the campus interviews. The search process is on schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor