

University of Tennessee Research Council

March 13, 2006

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair
Jan W. Brown
Billie J. Collier
William Dunne
Arlene Garrison
Randall Gentry
W. Frank Harris
Julie Little
Lillian Mashburn

Roland Mote
Carol Tenopir
Clif Woods

Guests:

Ray Hamilton
Carol Malkemus
Suzan Thompson
Gail White

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved as revised.

The Chair noted that of those attending only 2 were representative of the faculty.

Vice Chancellor Woods commented that agencies, notably the National Science Foundation, were increasingly limiting the number of proposals that any one institution could submit. This practice requires that the University (which for this purpose consists of UTK, Memphis, UTSI and UTIA) undertake an internal review. In a new procedure discussed at the recent Chief Research Officers' meeting, colleges are now asked to pre-select proposals coming forward and submit no more than the number allowed by the solicitation for the University (e.g., if the solicitation allows only one proposal for the institution, each college can only put one proposal forward). The discussion that ensued focused on the added work thus required and the fact that large, complex colleges are perhaps penalized by this practice.

Dr. Collier reported that a system-wide committee has been appointed to work on coordination of COEUS implementation across the system. Joel Muehlhouser (UTSI) is the chair and Dr. Collier is UTK's representative. UTK has been in the vanguard in developing the proposal submission module in concert with MIT and other institutions. UT-Memphis and UTIA have concerns about confidentiality of data in COEUS.

Also, from the Compliance Office, Dr. Collier reported on a checklist for new faculty that would allow us to make sure that all areas of compliance to support a new faculty member's research. The goal is to have all compliance matters covered by the time the new faculty member arrives such that they can begin immediately on their research.

From Federal relations, Mrs. Mashburn reported that Washington is pressing forward on multiple fronts to address American competitiveness and offer a response to the NAS report, "The Gathering Storm." While there is much intellectual excitement, the Congress faces daunting fiscal issues that will no doubt temper what actually happens by way of appropriations. For example, it is already the sense that the Senate and House will not be able to reconcile a budget this year. However, there is nonetheless a spirit afoot in Washington that Congress is interested in the issues of basic research and maintaining the U.S. edge. Industry may well be the strongest ally behind this mood swing as they realize what is happening in globalization of the economy.

Mrs. Mashburn reported that National Humanities Day went very well with Drs Bast and Heffernan represented the University extremely well and were likewise well received by the Congressional staff with whom they met and interacted. The MARCO effort, especially its outreach component was called out for special attention. The NEH administrator expressed interest in visiting UTK and seeing firsthand what is going on with MARCO and other humanities initiatives; a suitable opportunity to invite him is being sought.

Among the Associate Deans' reports, Professor Dunne raised the issue of not having good data on just how many students, postdocs and research faculty were 100% on federal grants. With ever greater attention to effort certification, these data are vitally needed. Ms. Gail White indicated the availability of such data and agreed to make the data available for particular colleges.

Under old business, the open access resolution discussed at the last meeting is being re-done. Center reviews are on track and will be completed by the end of the semester. Likewise, the policy on research data and research tangible property will be revised by the end of the semester. The Chancellor's awards have been reviewed and the results forwarded to the Chancellor.

Dr. Handler discussed the changes in tenure policy that will be addressed at the upcoming (March 17) Board of Trustee's meeting in Memphis.

Dr. Handler also reported on his trip to Washington to brief legislators on the needs and plight of high energy physics in the U.S. He also noted the perception of a real sea change by Congress toward the need for basic research. He commented that during his visit with Congressman Duncan, the Congressman indicated how important he felt it was that UT faculty actually go out in to the region's high schools and visibly show students what the university was about.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5 PM.