

University of Tennessee Research Council

March 26, 2007

Eighth Floor Conference Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair
JoAnne Hall, Vice-Chair
Pauline Bayne
Jan Brown
Wayne Davis
Bill Dunne
Frank Harris
Tom Ladd
Carol Malkemus

Faye O. Muly
Stefanie Ohnesorg
Stefan Richter
Lee Riedinger
Jason Wight

Guests: Bill Blass
Ray Hamilton

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February 26, 2007 were approved as presented.

Comments from the Research Office and Associate Deans: Dr. Riedinger provided an update on searches for both the VC position and the Associate VC position. Airport interviews are scheduled for mid-April with campus interviews to follow shortly for the Vice Chancellor position. An internal search will begin shortly for the position of Associate Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Riedinger also briefed the group on the status of the JIAM, the Cherokee campus where JIAM will now be located and other possible developments for the Cherokee campus which include the concept of a Sustainable Energy Education and Research Center.

On the federal front, science and engineering (indeed STEM generally) is being looked upon with favor, but we are a long way from requests for a real budget. Congress' interest in STEM lies in the mantra that science leads to innovation leads to jobs. Congressman Bart Gordon (D-Middle Tennessee) is Chair of the House Science Committee and is a very active Chair.

Old Business: Center reviews for the semester are completed and the approval papers are moving forward.

The Research Data and Tangible Research Property subcommittee is still hopeful that this draft policy will be completed before the 300th anniversary.

Faye Muley reported that the decision had been reached to upgrade the Newton computer cluster and create the high speed link with Chicago.

Dr. Handler has received one nomination for Chair of the Research Council for 2007-2008 and nominations were left open until the April meeting at which time the election will be held.

Concern was expressed by the College of Engineering and the Research Office that research awards were lagging the pace of previous years—mostly attributable to uncertainties of the Congressional continuing resolution. There is some anecdotal data that the pace of awards is now picking up, but departments heavily dependent on funding through subcontracts (e.g., from ORNL) may still see a shortfall from previous years.

New Business: Dr. Riedinger mentioned that he had been working with risk management to resolve issues that inhibited high school students from working with faculty on campus during the school year. Overcoming these risk issues will help encourage high school students to become active with the University.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM