

Research Council 2004/2005 annual report

The Council was Chaired by Bill Blass with Co-Vice chairs Wes Hines and Joanne Hall, and IT Manager Jeanine Williamson. Blass is stepping down as Chair although remaining on the Council as a Senator. (Blass had earlier served as Chair from 94/95 to 2000/2001.) Election of a new Chair will be accomplished at the April 25 meeting of the Council. The new Chair takes over as of the end of the last meeting of 04/05.

Policies and Procedures

Charge: To explore the realm of policies and procedures at the University with special attention to policies and procedures which have not evolved consistent with the University's development as a Research I University. To make recommendations to the VC/Research regarding desirable policy and procedure changes that would enhance the productivity of the research enterprise

Chair: Bill Hamel

Members: Bruce Bomar, Brandon Farmer (GSS), Bob Donnell, Jan Brown,

Ex Officio: Billie Collier, Wayne Davis, Arlene Garrison, Roland Mote, Tom Ladd, Faye Muly, John Sobieski, Carol Tenopir, Clif Woods

Report:

The Policies and Procedures Committee reviewed the document "Proposed Research Data and Tangible Research Property Policies" at the request of Dr. Garrison, Office of Research last year and submitted a formal report on December 4, 2003. Since that time, no feedback on the committee's inputs was received. Dr. Frank Harris is now responsible for these policies and he recently requested that the PPC review revised versions of them. The PPC Chair also recommended to Dr. Harris that many of the committee's concerns about the original drafts could be effectively addressed through supplemental procedures that would guide principal investigators. He and his staff have generated draft companion procedures. The PPC is now reviewing the latest drafts of the research data and tangible research property policies and procedures. The goal is to complete the review and to submit comments to the Office of Research by the end of the S05 semester.

Research Infrastructure

Charge: To determine and prioritize research infrastructure needs in consultation with the research faculty. To engage the University administration in a substantive dialog regarding Research Infrastructure funding models such as the Library Model versus a Cost Recovery Model. To provide an assessment of the likely impact of funding model choices on Faculty productivity, graduate education, and our Research I status. To integrate into an annual research infrastructure needs document all committee assessments.

Chair: Micah Beck

Members: Heather Hirschfeld, Stefan Richter, Trevor Moulden

Ex Officio: Gayle Baker, Billie Collier, Denny Dukes, Bill Dunne, Arlene Garrison, Maureen Groer, Joanne Hall, Faye Muly, Clif Woods

Report:

Discussions in the Research Infrastructure Committee focused largely on the possible

advent of optical networking and broader cyberinfrastructure initiatives both on campus and regionally. The topic was initially introduced due to the optical networking efforts being organized by Oak Ridge National Laboratories and seeking to connect a number of research and education participants in the state. Questions of how dedicated 10 Gbps optical data circuits could be delivered throughout the Knoxville campus raises significant investment and implementation challenges that are being addressed by VolNet 2. Another important question is which user communities would make use of such revolutionary new capabilities and how the necessary infrastructure would be acquired on a disciplinary basis. However, over the course of the academic year, the discussion of statewide cyberinfrastructure shifted from the ORNL initiative to a new proposal called OneTenn that has grown out of the state EPSCoR process. OneTenn incorporates both an optical networking backbone as well as data storage as a significant common infrastructure element, one point which differentiates it from similar initiatives in other states.

Special Panels

Chancellor's Research Awards

Charge: To solicit nominations, receive nominations, evaluate nominations materials and make recommendations to the Provost for the awards.

Chair: Elizabeth Sutherland

Members: Kathy Bohstedt, Mary Rogge, Tom Handler, Mark Hedrick

Ex Officio: Wayne Davis, Bill Dunne, Billie Collier, Arlene Garrison, Tom Ladd, Carol Tenopir, Bill Blass, Jeanine Williamson

Report:

The Panel met, having reviewed about 20 nominations in each of two categories. The Panel's recommendation were forwarded to the Vice Chancellor for Research and the Chancellor. The awards were made at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet on April 14.

SARIF: Summer Special Research Assistants

Charge: To solicit nominations, receive nominations, evaluate nominations materials and make recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Research for the awarding of the funding

Chair: Arlene Garrison

Members: Bruce Bomar, Dukwon Kim, Jan Brown, Stefan Richter, Tom Handler, Heather Hirschfeld

Ex Officio: Billie Collier, Arlene Garrison, Robert Moore, Clif Woods, Wes Hines

Report:

For 2005, email submissions were implemented using a standard form. Thirty awards of \$3000 were made. The committee plans to add a few small changes to the form and to use it again next year. Committee Recommendation: For the 2006 competition, the committee recommended that 25 awards of \$3600 be awarded. The Research Council approved that change and it will be implemented in 2006.

EPPE (Exhibit, Publication and Performance Expense)

Charge: To solicit and evaluate applications for EPPE grants on a timely basis and make recommendations to Associate Vice President for Research for funding.

Chair: Wes Hines

Members: Heather Hirschfeld, Kathy Bohstedt, Mary Rogge,

Ex Officio: Gayle Baker, Billie Collier, Arlene Garrison, John Sobieski, Clif Woods

Report:

Since April 2004, about 36 awards have been made out of 42 requests totaling \$22,435. The EPPE budget is \$30,000 so there are still funds remaining to meet faculty needs.

The EPPE committee, with approval from the research council, made two changes to the requirements:

- 1. For rewards greater than \$500, faculty must request cost sharing from the college and department. The responses from the college and department must be included in the EPPE proposal.**
- 2. Requests for funding must be for accepted works not for use in covering submission costs.**

Centers Evaluation

Charge: To evaluate Research Centers on an ongoing periodic basis and recommend to the Associate Vice President for Research the disposition of renewal requests; to perform the same evaluation for new applications for Research Center status.

Chair: Bill Blass

Members: Micah Beck, Bill Hamel, Janice Musfeldt, Jan Brown

Ex Officio: Billie Collier, Arlene Garrison, Clif Woods

Report:

Three Centers were up for review this year. Two Centers were recommended for full 5 year approval, and one Center was recommended for a one year extension with the task of producing a definitive and specific report. The Panel recommends a 10 page limit for the reports in the future.

SARIF Equipment & Infrastructure

Charge: To solicit and evaluate proposals and make recommendations to the Associate Vice President for Research for the awarding of the funding.

Chair: Tom Handler

Members: Jan Musfeldt, Bill Hamel, Bob Donnell, Micah Beck

Ex officio: Billie Collier, Bill Dunne, Wayne Davis, Arlene Garrison, Clif Woods, Bill Blass

Report:

The proposals are being evaluated; a set of recommendations will be provided to the Vice Chancellor for Research.

Ad Hoc Committees

Special Projects

Charge: To engage in activities which will raise Community awareness of UTK research activities and results. To promote the participation of all faculty in scholarly and research activities. Specific projects shall include the RC web page, a public lecture series, and the promotion of small grant applications.

Chair: Joanne Hall

Members: Kathy Bohstedt, Mary Rogge, Micah Beck, Bob Donnell

Ex Officio: Billie Collier, Arlene Garrison, Lillian Mashburn, Robert Moore, Clif Woods, Bill Blass

Report:

Attached is Appendix B, (of the Faculty Evaluation Manual) developed by the Research Council (for the currently used Faculty Evaluation Manual) as a set of recommendations for defining and evaluating faculty research, scholarship and creative activity. This document emphasizes the diversity of faculty work under the general heading of "research." Some changes were made to this document in 04-05 regarding: emphasis on knowledge discovery, integration and application; interdisciplinary collaboration; knowledge that serves Tennessee and the larger national and international communities; involvement of students; quality as well as quantity of outcomes; and the advancement of disciplines at large. Recommendations of RC members as well as some outside our group participated in expanding and updating the document. We believe it is now more inclusive, and reflects the University's goal of increasing research, scholarship and creative outcomes of faculty and offers specific suggestions for evaluation that can be adapted for needs of each department. The final document has been forwarded to Susan Martin. Some discussions between Bill Dunne and Bill Blass led to agreement that the content of Appendix B should be incorporated into the Evaluation Manual. Appendix B is attached to the report.