

University of Tennessee Research Council

April 14, 2008

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Attending:

Joanne Hall, Chair	Stephanie Ohnesorg
Bill Blass, Vice-Chair	Thandi Onami
Wayne Davis	Stan Pinkleton - OIT
Ramon DeGennaro	Greg Reed
Brad Fenwick	Bruce Robinson
Greer Fox	Barry Rouse
Glenn Garber	Ken Stephenson
Mary Gunther	Carol Tenopir
Carol Malkemus	Gail White
Michael McNeil – OIT	
Bob Muenchen - OIT	

Approval of Minutes:

The February 18, 2008 minutes were approved as submitted with no changes.

Introductory Remarks – Joanne Hall and Bill Blass

Joanne Hall commented about her memorandum and report to David Patterson, Faculty Senate President, which included a 2007-2008 summary of the Research Council's year. The report was based on reports and comments she had received from members of the Research Council.

Joanne Hall stated that the Research Forums are going well. She distributed a flyer advertising the next forum titled "Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity: The Road Ahead" which will meet on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in room 307, Science & Engineering Research Facility. A fourth forum will be schedule sometime in the fall. She will try to arrange the next forum to meet with the Faculty Senate Meeting. Joanne feels that the forums have been useful to raise ideas and provide a lot of suggestions, especially the suggestions on how to use property at the Cherokee Farm. Joanne thanked Ken Stephenson who has e-mailed information to the President of the Faculty Senate.

Joanne congratulated Greg Reed on being named President of Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon.

Bill Blass reminded everyone about election of new officers for the Research Council at the next meeting. Nominations are needed and will be voted on at the next meeting. Bill also suggested that you contact the person you would like to recommend for a position to make sure that person will accept the position if elected before nominating them. Bill complimented Joanne on a good job that she has done this year. Bill suggested that everyone be thinking about what kinds of committees and task forces that are needed.

Brad Fenwick stated that he was sorry he could not attend the last forum but he was out of town. He thinks that the council should continue with the forums and continue to engage faculty.

Brad also commented on the Budget Hearings. He was impressed by the colleges balancing their budgets. He feels his presentation was taken very seriously.

Ken Stephenson asked for an explanation on start-up funds. Brad stated that start-up funds are automatically matched if the college and department come up with 50%. Office of Research will match dollar for dollar. Colleges and departments are still expected to match 50% even if Oak Ridge matches.

Old Business

There are several activities that Office of Research administers on behalf of the research Council Committees and all but two are complete. Those will be complete by the end of April.

Greg Reed gave a report on Research Data and Tangible Research Property Statements. Greg commented on the Tangible Research Property Policy. He has received comments from committee members and edited the policy accordingly. Most comments suggested were to change “owner” or “ownership” to “responsible” or “responsibility”. This change will clarify who has responsibility. Presently the university has no guidance and no one has responsibility. The report now shows that research data is available for at least three years. If a faculty member moves to another place, the university has responsibility for the research because it originated here unless the research is transferred. The report explains how to transfer.

Bill asked about what happens if a professor is here, another professor is at another university, and another institution and are involved in research together. Who is responsible? Brad stated that the research data generated by our faculty and on our campus means the responsibility is here and that generated by others resides at their institution.

Joanne stated that there is no policy in place right now and she is in favor of adopting the language in the report. Motion was made by Ken Stephenson to adopt the policy with the mentioned changes. Motion was seconded by Glenn Graber. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

New Business

Joanne introduced Robert Bruce Robinson, Professor Emeritus. Bruce explained his concern regarding publications and liability. Some publishers are requiring faculty to sign an “indemnification clause” before a faculty’s article will be published. Bruce has spoken to a Research Dean who has spoken with Legal Council at UT and UT will not defend faculty if sued over their publications. Legal Council maintains that faculty are required to publish but not to publish a particular article. Brad stated that the Research Council, for the well being of UT’s faculty, needs to get clarity on this issue. The Research Council will get this clarified so when someone approaches the Office of Research, there will be an answer. Joanne suggests that this might be something to discuss at a forum. Greg suggested putting it on the forum, get reaction from the Faculty Senate Retreat and possibly ask a task committee to form a policy. Faculty need to be made aware that this could affect their livelihood.

Joanne thanked Bruce for bringing this to the Research Council’s attention. Hopefully, it can be resolved in the fall.

Joanne mentioned the committee reports on center evaluation and event documents, complimenting Dr. Tse Wang and her committee for a thorough job done. Changes and improvements were made in application and evaluation.

Ken Stephenson asked about the status of Governor’s Chairs. Brad stated that the Governor’s Chairs are funded at the System’s level. Once a hire is approved, the money is transferred to the appropriate unit. Lee Reidinger is the contact person for the Governor’s Chairs. A program that is already strong is usually a better candidate. Brad suggested that Lee and the Provost be invited to a Research Council Meeting to give a report on the Governor’s Chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor