

University of Tennessee Research Council
April 26, 2010
University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337
3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Ken Stephenson, Chair	Yuri Kamychkov
William Dunne	Jill Keally
Brad Fenwick	Jun Lin
Joanne Hall	Bob Muenchen
Michael Handelsman	Tim Young

Guest Attending: None

Welcoming:

Ken Stephenson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. This is the last Research Council Meeting for this semester.

Approval of Minutes:

The March 22, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Opening Remarks:

Ken Stephenson stated that he will Chair the Research Council next year if the Faculty Senate ask him. Technically chairs are appointed by the Faculty Senate. He would like a volunteer to be vice chair. Suggested setting up an internal rotation.

Update from Office of Research – Brad Fenwick

ORU Budget Hearings are scheduled for April 29th & 30th. The Research Council Members are encouraged to attend to give your input on prioritizing the funding. This will also give attendees an opportunity to learn what others are doing. Review sheets will be in the room for judges. Phone calls and e-mails are also welcomed. Thirty-one proposals were received: 8 new proposals; 3 proposals from units who submitted last year but were not funded; and 20 proposals from units which were funded last year. Last year there was approximately \$350,000 reallocated from existing centers to fund others. Units are accountable for resources received and how they are used. The funds which units receive are not an entitlement – it is a bridge funding. A schedule of the budget hearings and the proposals received are posted on the Office of Research's website. The funds are to help faculty be successful externally. Greg Reed and Brad Fenwick will do an assessment of all the requests and then submit a budget recommendation to the Chancellor. These funds come from the general budget. This is a one-time funding and there is no guarantee from year to year.

Brad Fenwick discussed the budget cuts process. Colleges and departments will not receive any more budget cuts. The plan is to use central resources.

Brad Fenwick mentioned that he is on the Top 25 Committee which the Chancellor has formed to do a gap analysis of where we are as a campus in the top 25 universities. The

committee is looking at other data bases to determine the gap. They will determine how to close the gap. Each university's chancellor sets the goal they want their universities capabilities to be based on.

The Master Planning Committee and the Strategic Plan is continuing. Space is an important issue to address to close the gap. The last TN Knoxville Master Plan was done in 2001. Bill Dunne gave an overall explanation about the Master Plan.

Brad Fenwick discussed the Sandbox Meeting Luncheon with Kurt Schlieter, Director of Federal Relations for the UT System, and subgroup of research oriented faculty on April 19th on how to advance research on campus. THEC is discussing changing the formula for funding for the university to include research grants and contracts as part of the funding formula. THEC is recognizing that research campuses are more expensive to run.

Ken Stephenson encouraged the Research Council members to attend VOL Visions and to encourage research on campus.

Brad Fenwick discussed some items that the Research Council might consider next year:

- Kurt Schlieter, Director of Federal Relations for the UT System
- Awards Banquet to celebrate faculty scholarships– consider doing something in the future
- How to recognize caliber of our faculty
- Continue to financially support undergraduate research

Several Research Council members discussed undergraduate research. Sharon Pound has been identified in the Office of Research to focus on undergraduate research. She will be attending conferences and meetings this summer to learn about undergraduate research at other universities. It was suggested that undergraduate student's research papers be published. Undergraduate students who are involved in research tend to have at least one point higher GPA than students who are not involved in research. Graduation rate is higher for undergraduate students who are involved in research. Research is also an incentive for undergraduate students to attend graduate school. The following topics were discussed to possibly be purposed to the Faculty Senate to be presented to the Council:

- SARIF Review Panels
- Mock SARIF
- Allocation of F&A to keep it increasing

Brad Fenwick explained how faculty are probably at their capacity with research, and facilities are at capacity. The goal was \$200 million in awards. Agencies are behind on making awards due to stimulus. Therefore, UTK may not meet their goal. One of Office of Research's visions to grow the base is to provide faculty development workshops. There was a discussion about funding such as EPSCORE and how to get this sort of funding. There is not a lot of benefit to the university for this type of funding due to the matching required which is usually 30-50%.

New Business:

Bob Muenchen commented on changes in the Office of Information Technology and the implications for research. The Office of Information Technology is gathering input and information to better serve the faculty. They are also developing a faculty advisory committee. They are presently monitoring:

- Research Computer Needs
- Programs researchers are running
- Software downloads
- Sales at the Computer Store
- Consulting Demands
- Surveys
- What other universities use
- Watch computer trends

A meeting will be held in the fall for a status report.

New freshman in the fall will be using Microsoft Live and will have the option to use g-mail in the near future. This will provide more space to store files.

Ken Stephenson closed the meeting with encouraging everyone to continue their participation in the Research Council in the fall and to serve on committees. He also encouraged members to put pressure on other members who are not participating. He thanked Brad Fenwick and Greg Reed for keeping the Research Council informed and their good work.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor