

University of Tennessee Research Council

September 11, 2006

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair	Vena Long
Pauline Bayne	Robert N. Moore
Brice Bible	C. Roland Mote
Jan W. Brown	Stefanie Ohnesorg
Wayne T. Davis	Stefan Richter
Bill Dunne	Lee Riedinger
Randall W. Gentry	Carl E. Sams
Glenn Graber	Ken Stephenson
W. Frank Harris	Jason P. Wight

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from May 8, 2006 were approved.

Dr. Handler welcomed old and new members of Research Council (RC) 2006-2007. He distributed the report of RC activities for 2005-2006.

Comments from the Research Office: Dr. Lee Riedinger, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, outlined his goals for the coming year. One goal is to sharpen and highlight the research messages from the University. He feels that UT has a story to tell and he will seek new and innovative ways to tell that story. He commented on the upcoming visit by Dr. Arden Bement, Director, the National Science Foundation, as but one example of the elevated profile that UT's research occupies.

A second goal is to develop UT's portfolio and image with respect to "energy research" in all its dimensions – from basic science, to technology to the economic, social and legal dimensions of energy. Shortly, he will embark on a survey to assess UT's strengths culminating in an 'energy strategic plan' for UT. Further, he desires to see 'energy' topics integrated into the curriculum as appropriate.

Another item on Lee's agenda is to work toward a better capability for UT to respond effectively to calls for big, multi-faculty center-type proposals. If we are to meet expectations, we need to support faculty desiring to undertake this type of proposal. His ideas include staff in the Office of Research who could assist in preparation and small amounts of funds to support exploratory research—more so than currently available through SARIF.

Lee emphasized working with the Joint Institutes and Joint Faculty programs to make them effective mechanisms for collaboration. He also wants to insure that UT is responsive to programs and opportunities (supported by Senator Alexander) that follow from the NAS report "The Gathering Storm."

Associate Vice Chancellor Collier reported that all but one Department in the College of Engineering has had the presentation on export control issues in higher education and research. [Scribe's Note: Subsequent to the RC meeting, the FBI conducted a thorough briefing for UT officials, highlighting several topics including export control where the FBI wishes to better partner with the University.]

Dr. Collier also noted the upcoming deadline for receipt of proposals from faculty in the arts, humanities and social sciences for a course release to better position the recipients to prepare and submit external proposals and other scholarly activities

Mrs. Mashburn, Federal Relations, reported that the outlook for Congress accomplishing any of its duties regarding appropriations was doubtful as they will adjourn as quickly as possible (9/28/06) for elections. There is some hope that the defense appropriation will be passed. What this all really means is that we are facing another round of continuing resolutions during which the funding is at the same or lower level (if already passed by the House) as the last fiscal year and no new starts.

Brice Bible called attention to the Research Services Database on the OIT web site which summarized all the services available to support faculty research.

Dr. Handler asked that RC members volunteer or make nominations for the several subcommittees that conduct the bulk of activity of RC. SARIF awards for Infrastructure and Equipment and the annual Chancellor's awards for Research and Research Promise are two very visible activities. Members were to make their wishes known to Dr. Handler.

Old Business: The analysis of Research Data Policy and Tangible Research Property Policy carries over into its third year without resolution. This needs to be a high priority for RC this term. The report on proposals to EPPE and the results of funding was distributed.

New Business: Following John Shanks retirement, a new safety official has been hired, Mark Smith. Mr. Smith previously was with the UT Medical Center in Knoxville. Dr. Handler will invite Mr. Smith to the next RC.

Dr. Handler raised the study done last year at the behest of Vice Chancellor Ann Mayhew on postdoctoral employees as a topic with which the RC needed to be engaged. A copy was to be located and provided to Dr. Riedinger with further discussion to follow.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:43:24 PM.