

University of Tennessee Research Council

September 24, 2007

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30 p.m.

Attending:

Joanne M. Hall, Chair	Murray Marks
Bill Blass, Vice-Chair	Michael McNeil
Mary Bartolini	Bob Muenchen
Pauline Bayne	Stefanie Ohnesorg
Janet Brown	Thandi Onami
Tim L. Cross	Natalia Pervukhina
Wayne T. Davis	Ken Phillips
Ramon DeGennaro	Gina Pighetti
Brad Fenwick	Greg Reed
Randall Gentry	Ken Stephenson
Glenn Graber	Tse-Wei Wang
Mary Gunther	Gail White
Barbara Klinkhammer	GSS – Brandice Green
Tom Ladd	GSS – Valentina Kuznetsova
Carol Malkemus	

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from April 23, 2007 were approved as submitted with no changes.

Welcome & Introductions:

Joanne Hall welcomed new and returning members, and asked everyone to identify themselves in around-the-room introductions. She asked Dr. Reed to address the Council. He expressed his desire for increased faculty involvement on the Council, and encouraged feedback from faculty as a way to improve research across the campus. He then introduced the new Vice Chancellor for Research, Brad Fenwick.

Dr. Fenwick spoke about the overall climate of research in higher education. In an increasingly competitive environment with shrinking resources, the challenge is keeping track of the competition and pulling in a larger share of what is available. His motto, “No one of us is as smart as all of us,” expresses his open door policy. He believes that tackling big issues will attract interest and bring people to the table. He will be out and about on campus talking to faculty and staff, and is interested in attending faculty and college meetings. Dr. Fenwick’s e-mail address is vcresearch@utk.edu.

Old Business:

Policy of Research Data & Tangible Research Property

The policy of research data as it exists needs to be reviewed, and Greg Reed will contact Arlene Garrison regarding her draft of possible changes. This item, along with the tangible research property item of old business will be carried forward to the next meeting.

New Business:

Research Council Website:

After discussion regarding the Research Council website, it was decided that Tse-Wei Wang will talk to Doug Birdwell about the transfer of archived information from the old website onto the new website.

Proposal Deadlines:

Greg Reed announced the re-publishing of a proposal deadline schedule soon. Last minute receipt of proposals means less than best possible results in winning awards. Thandi Onami asked if there is any possibility of more support from the Office of Research. Discussion followed. Brad Fenwick said that he will be looking at productivity issues and considering where support is best placed. This will probably vary by discipline. Proposal support units are successful in several institutions. Tse-Wei asked if the Office of Research could designate certain people to specialize in specific agencies. Greg Reed said that is already in place. He will send Tse-Wei a list of staff and the agencies they specialize in.

Research Council Committees:

Joanne asked each member to complete a committee request form indicating three committee choices in order of preference, and putting an asterisk beside any committee they are willing to chair. Joanne will compile the results of the committee selection forms. She will appoint a temporary chair for any committees lacking a chair. Glenn Graber proposed adding a Compliance Committee, and after a brief discussion the Council decided to do this, making a total of six committees. Greg Reed clarified that support services for all committees will come from the Office of Research.

Research Council Membership:

Joanne received several questions from individuals during the past few weeks regarding their membership status. She advised them to come to the first meeting where membership would be a topic of discussion. Bill Blass referred to the Faculty Senate Bylaws, but he also stated that those have been and can be modified. Joanne feels it is strengthening when faculty members wish to continue. She will take a liberal stance regarding membership. Those who are no longer on the Faculty Senate, but who would like to continue serving on the Research Council should see Joanne. She will take these names to David Patterson for official inclusion.

RC Goals for the Upcoming Year:

Reinvigoration for Faculty Participation/Shared Governance/Interdisciplinary Research

Ken Stephenson said that he joined the Council looking for where decisions are made, but often reports are shared after the fact. He feels that clarification of the role Research Council plays in the actual decision making process would increase participation. Interdisciplinary projects are hard to form without open communication. Brad Fenwick said that being told what is going on is very different than participating in decision making. He said it is a new day but it will take some time to gear up. Greg Reed spoke about ways to open lines of communication.

In response to a question about Center reviews, Randy Gentry stated that they were done with the help of Frank Harris and were reported back to the Centers. Wayne Davis said that his directors took the reviews very seriously and he feels this system is working well. Randy said that it was hard to find individuals willing to help on the Review Committee.

Ongoing IT Issues

Two consulting groups have turned in reports for consideration. In the meantime, those responsible are working to improve service and resolve problems.

HR Limits to Salaries of Contract People

Tse-Wai asked about the possibility of setting up escrow accounts to pay annual leave for R01 account soft money. Discussion followed regarding HR limits to salaries which make it difficult to hire the best people. Joanne said that the Research Infrastructure Committee will need to work on these types of issues.

Joanne suggested that members reflect on what things need to be studied and contact her to get them on the agendas for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer M. Hall