

University of Tennessee Research Council
September 1, 2010
University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337
3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Ken Stephenson, Chair	Federico Harte
Chris Boake	Wes Hines
Robert Jones	Yuri Kamyshkov
Bob Cargile	Clea McNeely
JoAnne Deeken	Bob Muenchen
Bill Dunne	Ken Phillips
Scott Gilpatric	Greg Reed
Matthew Gray	Steven Yen
Martin Griffin	

Guest Attending:

Bobbie Suttles	Carol Malkemus
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Welcoming

Ken Stephenson thanked everyone for attending. He asked everyone to introduce themselves, tell which department they are in, and a brief statement about their position. Ken Stephenson thanked everyone for introducing themselves and mentioned how research is something that is at the forefront in a lot of areas.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 26, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Opening Remarks – Ken Stephenson

Ken Stephenson mentioned that the Research Council has a website with the minutes, a list of members, and a description of the Research Council. He continued to explain more about the Research Council with the following information.

The Research Council is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate intended to promote and support the research mission of the University -- and we interpret "research" in the broadest sense of research, both funded and unfunded, creative achievement, academic scholarship, and research dissemination.

We act as an advisory body to the chief university officer for research and we co-administer certain activities of the Office of Research, but our principal goal is to facilitate communication between those doing the research, the faculty and graduate students, and those who guide, fund, and administer it.

We are at a critical juncture in the University's life. Faced with unprecedented funding cuts, there is no question that decisions taken this year --- basically, the allocation of those cuts --

- will shape the University for years to come. Those advocating for our research and graduate education programs must remain vigilant, continually bringing the very cogent arguments for research before the administration.

This is where you and the Research Council come in --- it is crucial that those actually conducting research be directly involved during this very challenging year. As members, particular burdens will fall to you:

1. Let me dispense with the line functions first: I'll pass lists of subcommittees which we need to populate, some more time-critical than others. Please sign or email me with your choices for at least two committees. One of the committees is the Center Review Committee where a small number of centers are reviewed each semester. The committee provides a recommendation whether the center should continue as a center and on course. Greg Reed would like this committee to attend the Organized Research Unit Budget Hearings in the spring and give feedback on which of these proposals seem to be deserving of the limited funds available. In addition, the Council will be looking for members interested in the new Research Computing Technology Advisory Committee and a Task Force for benchmarking our research organization.
2. Members are representatives of their units. Please start a give-and-take with your colleagues about issues and share concerns and suggestions at our meetings. Personally, I have a few issues of concern:
 - (a) Are there obstacles to research productivity that should be cleared for greater efficiency? A few examples: accounting tasks seem to be growing exponentially (why?); ditto for departmental administrative burdens; visitor/student visa requirements and restrictions; human subjects and record-keeping requirements; etc. You name it (literally).
 - (b) Increasing teaching loads.
 - (c) Status and goals? Cherokee Campus, ORNL-UTK, Joint Institutes? Joint Faculty?
 - (d) Funded vs. non-funded research. Will budget cuts might fall more heavily on areas without major funding sources?
 - (e) Can we maintain the recent gains in publicity for UTK research efforts on and off campus?
3. In the past, various units from campus or the system have been happy to present at Research Council meetings. This is both a learning opportunity and a chance for direct faculty input. Please bring topics of interest to my attention --- though I may then ask you to invest a little prep time in making arrangements.
4. Research plays an essential role in our teaching mission, certainly at the graduate and post doc levels, but increasingly at the undergraduate level.

In summary, the Council (and that means you) needs to be proactive if we are to have an impact in this crucial year. Remember: research is not a zero-sum game, as evidenced by our stellar funding results in recent years; research is critical to the state's economic progress; our graduate program, flagship for the state, is tied directly to quality research. Finally, of course, research, scholarship, and creative activities are the heart of a great university.

Let Ken Stephenson know if there are particular topics that someone would like discussed at a Research Council Meeting. Ken Stephenson opened the floor for questions and/or comments.

Yuri Kamyshkov commented that Brad Fenwick was a very important part of this committee in previous years. He would like to hear and understand why Brad Fenwick stepped down. Ken Stephenson suggested waiting until Wes Hines, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, had an opportunity to hear this question. Ken Stephenson commented that he will be reading a proclamation which will be forwarded from the Executive Council to the Faculty Senate thanking Brad. He will take a vote under new business in this meeting so this will have the Research Council's endorsement.

Bill Dunne commented that it is obvious what happened with Brad Fenwick is complicated. The focus now should be on the present and the future. There is going to be a search for Vice Chancellor for Research launched. It is clear that the operation on this campus is better than it was two years ago. The faculty's role on this search committee should be very interested in maintaining this core. He encouraged everyone to be involved in the search process.

An assistant professor at the meeting made three topic suggestions for future meetings:

- Funding
- Graduate Student Housing
- Visa Requirements for International Students

Update from Office of Research – Greg Reed

Greg Reed briefly discussed Brad Fenwick's resignation. Wes Hines, prior Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering, was asked to be the Interim Vice Chancellor until a new Vice Chancellor can be chosen. This search is underway. The search process has been started and a committee should be announced soon. Susan Martin, Provost, will chair the committee.

Brad Fenwick enjoyed what he was doing. Some things that Brad Fenwick was concerned about and that the Research Council might want to look into are: (1) reduction in faculty time; and (2) possibility of restriction on funds to cost-sharing; and (3) possible reduction in start-up funds for new faculty. These are investment issues for continued growth and improvement.

Greg Reed announced that the fourth quarter annual report will be published soon. He discussed the comparison of last year's, FY09, to this year's, FY10. In FY10 we had \$188M new awards. In FY09 we had \$178M. In FY10 we had \$136M in expenditures. In

FY09 we had \$141M in expenditure. We are in the process of analyzing why the expenditures went down. He thinks expenditures may have gone down due to:

- Faculty were not prepared to assimilate all the funding that was received
- No-cost extensions went up about 20%

Greg Reed mentioned that proposals increased 17% over last year.

The Office of Research is continuing to look at what they are doing to see if it is effective. Surveys have been conducted and this data has been posted on the website. We continue to see where improvements may be made to better serve the faculty community. Our mission statement is “to enable all faculty and students to achieve their full potential as scholars”.

A new “New Faculty” training is being offered this semester by the Provost Office and the Office of Research. There will be six sessions offered throughout the academic year (3 by the Provost Office and 3 by the Office of Research). The sessions are to better inform faculty on how to connect to our people and to our resources. The sessions are also to help new faculty develop skills to be more effective in their research.

TERA (Tennessee Electronic Research Administration) started being developed three years ago. The electronic proposal part is now working reasonably well. The departments using it are being phased in. The awards side is not working well. It will give you a report with invalid information. The Office of Research stresses not to use the awards side of this program. There is a schedule of departments using TERA listed on the TERA website.

The Research Council might want to engage and find to what extent research is a focus in the whole strategic planning and vision statements involved with the “Top 25”. There are five categories to Vol Vision and the Office of Research is supporting activities that relate to all five. Our gap analysis related to funded research is to double research within the next ten years.

The Proposal Development Team (PDT) helped with 46 proposals last year. We did a variety of things such as a boot camp last summer for faculty nominated by the dean and department head to multi-million dollar proposals that are complex and everything in between. A survey has been done on how the faculty felt about the PDT’s assistance. The survey showed that 75% were very pleased. The Office of Research is taking the feedback from the other 25% and trying to figure out how they can do it better. After each proposal is submitted the PDT has a lessons learned session with the faculty to determine what went well, what didn’t go well, and what should we do differently next time.

The first issue of undergraduate research journal, *Pursuit*, came out spring semester and is online on TRACE. It will come out every semester now. The deadline for submission for spring issue is very near. It is published by undergraduate students. Todd Skelton was the editor and chief on the first issue and he did an excellent job. Jenny Bledsoe is this year’s editor and chief is she is doing an outstanding job.

The current year’s budget is the same as last year’s budget. The Office of Research’s website lists all of the programs available under the “internal funding” link.

NIH has upped the requirement on Responsible Conduct Training. Eight hours of face to face training is now required. The Office of Research is trying to implement a way to provide this and would like feedback on how to structure face to face training. The institution will take responsibility for setting up an electronic mechanism for doing the required and acceptable training. It was suggested that Minnesota has an excellent system to look at.

Update from Office of Research – Wes Hines

Wes Hines introduced himself as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement. He complimented Brad Fenwick on an outstanding job he did while he was in that position. He also commented on the strong leadership provided by Greg Reed. Wes Hines thinks that Brad Fenwick resigned because he thought it was the best thing for him and for the university. He still works well with Wes Hines and Greg Reed on Office of Research issues. Wes Hines mentioned that there will be a national search to fill this position. Susan Martin, Provost, will chair the search committee. Wes Hines will not be a candidate. The Chancellor specified up front that the interim would be someone who was not interested in applying for the position.

Wes Hines stated that the university will continue to strongly support the research enterprise. An example is the conversion of past one time funded activities to base funding. Outreach and engagement which will be funded for \$20,000 which is used to fund small competitively outreach endeavors on the campus. There were 88 undergraduate students doing research this summer. The Chancellor has agreed to put in \$50,000 in the base budget to help fund this. These things are important to the Chancellor and he is going to continue to support what we are doing.

New Business

A list was sent around for people to sign up to be on a committee. The committees are:

- Chancellor's Awards Committee
- SARIF Graduate Research Assistantship Committee
- SARIF EPPE Committee
- SARIF Equipment & Infrastructure Committee
- Centers Review Committee

Ken Stephenson read a resolution which acknowledges Brad Fenwick accomplishments and programs he put in place while he was Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement. The Research Council endorsed this resolution which will be presented to the Faculty Senate.

Greg Reed mentioned that the Office of Research has been notified of a allegation of a faculty researcher misconduct. The policy on how to conduct such an investigation is 12 years old. Greg Reed asked the Research Council to consider updating and revising the policy procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor