

# University of Tennessee Research Council

September 15, 2008

University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337

3:30 p.m.

## FINAL

<b>Attending:</b>	Joanne Hall, Chair	Yuri Kamyshkov
	Bill Blass, Vice-Chair	James Larson
	Ken Stephenson, Vice-Chair	Vena Long
	Jim Conant	Carol Malkemus
	Bill Dunne	Michael McNeil
	Brad Fenwick	Bob Muenchen
	Mary Gunther	Thandi Onami
	Doug Hayes	Greg Reed
	Tricia Hepner	Joan Rentsch
	Wes Hines	Carol Tenopir

### Approval of Minutes:

The May 5, 2008 minutes were approved as submitted with no changes.

### Opening Remarks – Joanne Hall

Joanne Hall thanked everyone for coming. She announced that the Research Council Meetings will continue to meet in the University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337. The Research Council's list is still being updated. Let us know if your name is not on the sign in sheet or if you do not have a name plate and we will correct the issue.

Joanne Hall discussed last year's strategic goals and which ones seemed relevant and which ones do not. She is considering having fewer committees and stick to the ones that the council is responsible for. Joanne Hall would like comments e-mailed to her on how well the Research Council has done and what should be continued.

Joanne Hall discussed the Research Council Forums that were held and referenced the notes taken by Greg Reed. She suggested that the forums be continued. She would like for the forums to be a committee task. Some suggestions for the forum in the spring were: engage the new chancellor; graduate recruitment; and joint forum with Graduate Council and Research Council.

Bill Blass stated that he would like to see more people involved in the Research Council and asked for any suggestions on how to accomplish this.

There was a discussion regarding violating the research council laws by adding people to the council who were not eligible and who was entitled to vote on issues.

Ken Stephenson explained what the Research Council does and what is expected of them. The Research Council has committees who make recommendations to the Office of Research for dollars that come from general funds. These dollars are to cover SARIF dollars for the Equipment and Infrastructure Fund competition, support for publications and exhibits of scholarly activity (EPPE), and summer graduate research assistantships. There are also committees who make recommendations for the Chancellors Awards.

Ken Stephenson committed on research initiatives and advancing research. He stressed that faculty need to be responsible. He would like to get more participation. The forums were more on physical sciences and he would like to get a wider variety of faculty and get goals out on the table. He suggested getting faculty who can give input on improving the process.

A comment was made that participating in undergraduate research is an important issue which faculty are working with. There is a need to find a way to fund their travel. Some grants fund undergraduate students and some do not.

Brad Fenwick discussed some big proposals that have been submitted. The Office of Research assisted in submitting them. He stressed that faculty are better than they give themselves credit for. He stressed that it is not so much as ability but how you organize yourself for success. The Office of Research has launched a new communication called "QUEST". "QUEST" is on the web and it highlights what faculty are doing. The Office of Research is also launching a "Scholar of the Week" award. The average faculty member is doing good work will be eligible for this award. There may be 40 awards given over a course of a year. It gives faculty an opportunity to hear what others are doing.

Brad Fenwick stated that the Strategic Plan is still in revision. Office of Research is participating in editing it. The Financial Plan is missing.

Brad Fenwick discussed ways to help faculty through financial tough times and how to keep faculty engaged to go after grants and contracts. A plan has been submitted and hopefully will be approved. We need to be more responsive to faculty needs.

Brad Fenwick explained that the reviewing of Research Centers will be different in the future. All centers that receive central funding will provide a prospective on how well they did the past year and what would they do with more money. Each center will present their information which will provide information to Brad Fenwick to present at the Research Budget Hearings.

Brad Fenwick announced that the Office of Research is appointing an additional Associate Vice Chancellor of Research who will report to him. This position will be responsible for bringing faculty together to go after large awards and to prepare proposals before they go to Greg Reed for approval. This position will be filled through an internal search.

Greg Reed stated that the Office of Research has rebuilt their website to make it more intuitive. Suggestions on additional improvements would be appreciated. Additional material will continue to be added, for example training pages on how to submit documents and due dates.

Greg Reed announced that the SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Fund competition has been moved to fall instead of spring. The deadline for proposals is October 15, 2008.

Greg Reed discussed the undergraduate research program. He has been working with the Provost to launch a process for faculty to post undergraduate research opportunities. Last spring US 495 was approved for credit. This is not to replace any program presently in place. It gives students an option if their program does not have this option. Students do not have to take credit to participate in undergraduate research. Starting spring 2009 semester, programs may receive \$200 per student per semester for participating.

Greg Reed talked about colleges preparing and reviewing their proposals before they are submitted to the Office of Research for approval. Two colleges are now doing this. The Office of Research will work with colleges to determine the rules required to do this.

Brad Fenwick gave an update on the electronic research proposal process. The system was put together in North Carolina and it supports several campuses. Greg Reed is the point person for this system. A lot of the system will be in place by this time next year. The system can be set up to accommodate individual campus's needs. The system has not been named yet.

Wes Hines stated that Carol Malkemus is redoing the research account ledgers to make them more understandable.

IT people gave an update on the e-mail system. Some faculty still have issues sending and receiving e-mails but vast majority have good success. The Math Lab contract was approved with will provide free software and the site license was extended. Brad Fenwick complimented Jesse Poore's accomplishments and ability to address problems.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Taylor