

**Research Council Meeting  
September 16, 2011, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Executive Dining Room, University Center**

**FINAL**

**Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:**

Lee Han	Kim Newkirk
JoAnne Deeken	Ken Phillips
Martin Griffin	Maryann Raeeszadeh
Wes Hines	Greg Reed
Yuri Kamyshkov	Amy Skelton
Bob Muenchen	Nigel Vorbrich
	Steven Yen

**Guest Attending:**

Kelly Steele and Carol Malkemus

**Opening Remarks by Lee Han, Chair**

Lee Han expressed his appreciation for everyone's attendance and introduced himself as the Chair of the Research Council for FY 2011/2012.

Everyone present introduced themselves.

Wes Hines discussed his position as Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and he will begin in January, 2012 as Department Head for the Department of Nuclear Engineering.

The May 4, 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted and will be posted on the web page.

Lee Han mentioned that the Executive Council has had one meeting so far. Due to lack of quorum at the Executive Council Meeting, nothing was approved and the Executive Council has gone to e-mail discussion. There was also a discussion on whether to allow use of an electronic recording device at the Executive Council Meetings. Lee Han expressed his appreciation for the Office of Research for sponsoring the Research Council Meetings.

Lee Han discussed the Research Council schedule which is on the second Wednesday each month at 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the Executive Dining Room at the University Center. He encouraged Research Council members to feel free to send a substitute if they cannot attend a meeting, and let Lee Han know you will not be present.

**Update from the Office of Research**

**Wes Hines, Interim VC for Research**

Wes Hines discussed the Top 25 and research numbers. Last year, FY 2011, our expenditures went up another 14% to about \$154 million. We look at this metric because it is related to two

metrics in our Top 25 goal. The Top 25 Plan has several high level metrics from each of the five areas being undergraduate, graduate, faculty, research, and infrastructure. The only research metric is the total expenditures and federal expenditures. These numbers are for UTKA which includes the Agricultural Institute. The goal is to be like our target institutions which are ranked 20 – 30. We should be proud of the research done on this campus. Our proposals were down 17% and awards were down 14%. One reason proposal submissions are down may be because faculty are at their maximum work load and/or facilities are not available for their research. The university is looking at opportunities to team with the state and maybe through some additional bond issues to fund some research buildings. The Campus Master Plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The plan shows the renovation and expansion of Strong Hall which will be mainly for teaching laboratories and research laboratories. The plan also shows building another research facility next to Jesse Harris. The Chancellor is looking for funding for these projects, and they are high on his priority list. Other things high on the priority list that came out of the Top 25 are core facilities. Chris Boake is the chair of the Core Facilities Committee, and their mission is to find out what core facilities are needed for the types of research done on this campus; find out what facilities are currently available; and find out from other universities the best business plan and business model to support those. Plans are to have a report by January or at the latest May from that committee, and in FY 2013 start investing additional funding to build some core facilities to provide their services at reduced rates to our faculty.

There is a search underway to hire a new vice president for Research Foundation Knoxville Office. Consideration is being given at looking at hiring more licensing associates to properly fund the UT Research Foundation.

There was a discussion on action plans in the research plan of the Top 25: multidisciplinary research which is lead by Bill Dunne; occupancy of the Min Kao Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Building is scheduled soon which will allow available space in SERF and Ferris Hall; the John Tickle Engineering Building has broken ground which will free up space; and the JIAM Building is scheduled to go to bid soon.

There was a discussion about expected cuts in federal support. Congress is going to have to make some cuts, but it is unknown where those cuts will be. The prediction from senior based people in DC is that there will be a 10% cut across the board on everybody. It is not final until the Super Committee in DC makes their final decision in the next month or so.

Wes Hines gave an update on the Vice Chancellor of Research search. The Search Committee has held airport interviews and the first two candidates are coming into town next week. The first candidate interviewing is Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs, College of Engineering at the University of Florida. The second candidate interviewing is an Associate Vice Chancellor, Vice President's Office for Research, University of Georgia. There will be a total of five candidates interviewed. Interviews will begin next week and Open Forums for the first candidate has been announced. Members of the Research Council were encouraged to attend.

Wes Hines and Greg Reed held their first Center Director's Retreat on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There were great discussions and great ideas that came from it. The main discussion was the distribution of overhead which Wes Hines will discuss with Chris Cimino to try to improve this.

### **Greg Reed, Associate Vice Chancellor**

The Office of Research's newsletter will be distributed within the next few days. There is an announcement in it about the SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure proposals which are due on October 14<sup>th</sup>; Undergraduate Student Advisory Committee has been formed by the Office of Research which is made up of undergraduate students from all the colleges that have undergraduate research experience of their own; and an Undergraduate Faculty Advisory Committee has been formed which is made up of faculty appointed from each of the colleges. This provides the Office of Research with the students prospective and the faculty prospective on whatever ideas comes out from anywhere on campus. These two committees will be asked to submit ideas of their own. This information will be used for the Top 25 Initiative.

Greg Reed discussed that the Office of Research is beginning to generate the reports for FY 2011. The fourth quarter report has been published and is also on the Office of Research's website. The annual report is currently in final proofing which highlights particular kinds of new scholarship and research efforts from all across the campus. It also gives the five year trend chart that is broken down by funding source. This report should be out very soon.

Greg Reed mentioned that the Office of Research is in the process of updating Activity Based Report for FY 11 broken down by every department and every research center. This report is one of the reports on the Office of Research's website and should come out within a month.

Greg Reed gave an update on the TERA reporting system. Reports are still not available in the system due to a data base corruption problem. The awards part, compliance part, reporting part, etc. still have problems that are being resolved. The proposal part is working efficiently.

Undergraduate Summer Research Internships will be determined by a committee. The two advisory committees will advise the Office of Research how to use resources available on programs supported to be best effective.

### **New Business**

Committee Assignments - Lee Han asked the Research Council to sign up for the various committees:

- Centers Review Committee
- Chancellor's Awards Committee
- SARIF EPPE Committee
- SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Committee
- SARIF Graduate Research Assistantship Committee
- Committee for ORU Budget Hearings was suggested

### **Senate bylaws on Research Council**

Lee Han discussed and distributed copies of the Senate Bylaws, Section 2.J, which is on the Faculty Senate's website. This version shows that Research Council Membership consist of at

least 12 appointed faculty or faculty/administrator representatives. The previous version about 10 years ago showed 15 appointed faculty or faculty/administrator representatives. Even though now we have about 20 individuals on the list including students. One point Lee Han brought to attention was on the fourth line which states “the Associate Vice President of the Office of Research”. This position title no longer exists. These bylaws were written when the university had the combined system and campus administrative. This language got changed when these two units were pulled apart. Lee Han discussed these bylaws with the Faculty Senate President and it was decided that the Research Council should form a committee to review these bylaws and suggest changes to the Faculty Senate. A sign-up sheet was circulated to form an ad hoc committee for this review.

### **Top 25 Related Items**

Lee Han suggested that the Research Council should help support policies or help promote Top 25 issues. Wes Hines discussed the Top 25 Research Task Force 12 implementation action teams. Each team has several action items. At the next upcoming meeting Wes Hines will ask the team leaders if any of them are interested in coming to a Research Council Meeting and enlist the Research Council’s assistance in any of these activities. Wes Hines also suggested that interested Research Council Members may contact the team leaders directly. Wes Hines is working with the Partnerships Team. Y12 has just announced their Plant Directed Research and Development proposals were funded. This is similar to Oak Ridge’s LDRDs and a lot of UT faculty teamed with them when writing this proposal and were successful on nine (seven new ones and two renewals). UTK will be receiving \$940,000 in research funding from this.

Wes Hines will discuss involving the Office of Research with the Strategic Advancement Framework (SAF) which has to do with trying to identify areas of excellence and places where investments should be made in the future. He will be meeting with the Provost to discuss this in more detail.

### **RC Members suggestion activities for the year**

Suggestions may be e-mailed to Lee Han at [lhhan@utk.edu](mailto:lhhan@utk.edu).

Lee Han made a suggestion regarding the IRB process and changing/streamlining which involves a lot of things dealing with human subjects.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Taylor