

University of Tennessee Research Council

October 16, 2006

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair	Vena Long
JoAnne M. Hall, Vice-Chair	Larry McKay
Mary Bartolini	Robert N. Moore
Pauline Bayne	Faye O. Muly
Wayne T. Davis	Stefanie Ohnesorg
Bill Dunne	Stefan Richter
Arlene Garrison	Lee Riedinger
Randall W. Gentry	Carl E. Sams
Glenn Graber	Ken Stephenson
W. Frank Harris	Jason P. Wight
Tom Ladd	

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from September 11, 2006 were approved

Mr. Mark Smith, new Director of Environmental Health and Safety, was introduced and made a brief presentation outlining the responsibilities of his office. Many services are provided to the research function of the University including, EHS training, chemical safety and management of chemical inventory, and general safety (see attached).

Comments from the Research Office and Associate Deans:

Dr. Riedinger reported on the search for a scholar-in-residence at the Baker Center focused on energy policy. Finalist interviews are on-going.

He also reported on progress with an energy working group to examine what UT currently is doing by way of energy research, and to develop a strategic plan for future development. His goal is to have a broader colloquium in December to report out an energy R&D strategic plan.

Dr Garrison reminded those assembled that while Tennessee is no longer an EPSCOR state we continue to have eligibility at NSF for co-funding of grants. We will be eligible for two more years. She also reported that 2 of the 5 proposals funded by the DoD EPSCOR are UTK investigators.

Dr. Garrison also reported on a nascent effort to establish an office at ORNL staffed initially part-time that would search out and assist development of research collaborations with ORNL.

Dr. Davis (Engineering) commented on the successful venture this past year of joint LDRD awards between UT faculty and ORNL staff. [LDRD stands for Laboratory Directed Research and Development. These are funds that Congress allows the labs to spend from their equivalent to F&A to generate new research directions.] He reported that seven awards were made last year and had resulted in proposals as well as joint publications.

The joint LDRD program works in the following general way. Once the lab has made its determinations of LDRD projects to be supported, that list is sent to the appropriate department heads at UT. The projects are then vetted among faculty with similar interests.

Old Business:

Dr. Handler reported on progress (or lack thereof) to populate RC's committee structure. He will be contacting people individually.

New Business:

Dr. Handler introduced the topic of effort certification. One recent investigation by NSF at the University of Pennsylvania revealed that 37% of the labor costs charged to NSF projects was done so incorrectly. The Penn report emphasized that procedures were not in place or were not being followed and reporting of effort was not done in a timely or accurate manner. Wayne Davis commented that the Financial Task Force chaired by Ron Maples had been focused on 'effort certification.' It was clear from the discussion that we faced a significant challenge changing the culture to focus attention of accurate and timely reporting of effort.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM