

University of Tennessee Research Council

October 24, 2005

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attendees:	Thomas Handler, Chair	Randall Gentry
	Joanne Hall, Vice-Chair	Frank Harris
	Mary Bartolini	Tom Ladd
	Gary Bates	Julie Little
	Pauline Bayne	Vena Long
	Bill Blass	Lillian Mashburn
	Jada Huskey for W. Davis	Robert Moore
	Bill Dunne	Roland Mote
	Arlene Garrison	Stefan Richter

Minutes from the 9/26/2005 meeting are posted on the Research Council web site.

Office of Research

The Research Office reported that workshops on export control were underway with the focus being at the departmental level. Also, planning is moving forward for a state-wide meeting on COEUS.

Federal Relations

Lillian Mashburn reported that the federal government was operating on a Continuing Resolution which means that agencies are authorized at their lowest budget number and that no new programs could be started. Congressional leaders do not want an Omnibus spending bill. Therefore, without resolution of the standard appropriations bills the Federal government would operate on a year-long continuing resolution. Mrs. Mashburn also brought to RC's attention a floor amendment concerning prohibiting the use of Class B animals. This amendment, if enacted, would cause a great deal of expense to the medical fields and others that use animals in research. [Since the RC meeting, the amendment has been out of order and thrown out.]

EPPE

Dr. Harris handed out the monthly report of EPPE requests and their disposition. He also reported that the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor have agreed that there needed to be a way to handle publication subventions. Since most such subventions arise in the College of arts and Sciences, Dr. Dunne has agreed to work with appropriate departments to develop a peer review process for subvention requests.

Center and Institute Reviews

Dr. Handler commented on progress toward this semester's reviews of centers and institutes. All entities to be reviewed this semester have been received and will be sent to the Centers Review subcommittee. Dr. Blass commented on the need to restrict such reports to 10 pages. Other discussion was on the advisability and mechanism to periodically review centers between major review cycles, perhaps requiring an annual one-page summary. Other discussion raised a concern about overlapping centers with no resolution.

Research Data and Tangible Property

Dr. Handler reported that he took the documents approved by the RC at the September meeting to the Faculty Senate Executive Council. Discussion there centered on the fact that it did not appear that comments made to earlier drafts were ever considered. Dr. Handler took the documents off the table and has recruited a new subcommittee to review them once again.

Post-Doctoral Handbook

By way of background, several members of the Research Council were on the task force chaired by Dr. Robert Moore that created the Post-doctoral handbook. The task force was commissioned by Dr. Mayhew. Going forward, however, the Research Council will be involved directly as policies affecting postdoctoral personnel are developed and adopted. Dr. Handler reported that background documents for the postdoctoral handbook are on the Research Council web site.

Old Business

A question was raised about equipment purchased with SARIF or state funds. If the equipment is transferred off-site, which itself requires approval by the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, what are UT rights if intellectual property is developed?

[Answer to be developed.]

New Business

Dr. Handler presented a series of questions that arose from the Faculty Senate Past Presidents' luncheon.

- 1) What policies exist about control over donated funds and the extent to which donors can and do influence research?
- 2) What is done about the security of research facilities. Are our research facilities sufficiently secure? What are our policies on ID's, badges, or ensuring only authorized personnel have access to areas that should be kept secure. Are our labs and research facilities safe and are students and researchers following "best practices" in using these facilities.

- 3) What are our policies regarding theft of ideas?
- 4) The issue of dissertation research and policies on maintaining dissertation research on campus in order to comply with applicable rules and regulations

These were discussed and Dr. Handler will follow up with a response.

In addition to SARIF Equipment Awards in the spring semester, there are also a number of summer GRA awards that must be selected. Dr. Handler solicited members to volunteer to sit on the GRA award selection subcommittee.

Research at UTK functions year-round, but the RC meets only during the 9 months of the academic year. After discussion, it was agreed that RC would establish an executive committee (after the faculty senate) that could function during the summer.

Strategic Plan for Research

Dr. Handler introduced his desire to explore developing a strategic plan focused on research at UTK. What Dr. Handler focused on was creating a 'vision' for what UT is about vis a vis research and graduate education. Against an overall goal of excellence, exactly what is the vision for research? Some institutions have extensive plans, others less extensive. Dr. Handler proposed having more extensive discussion in subsequent meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 5 PM.