

**Research Council Meeting
October 12, 2011, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Executive Dining Room, University Center**

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Lee Han	Federico Harte
Itamar Arel	Wes Hines
Doug Birdwell	Bob Muenchen
Chris Boake	Maryann Raeeszadeh
JoAnne Deeken	Greg Reed
Joanne Hall	Amy Skelton
Tom Handler	Nigel Vorbrich

Guest Attending:

Heather Hagy, Carol Malkemus, and Kelly Steele

Opening Remarks by Lee Han, Chair

Lee Han expressed his appreciation for everyone's attendance. Since there were several people present who did not attend the last meeting, he introduced himself as the Chair of the Research Council for FY 2011/2012. He also asked everyone else to introduce themselves.

Lee Han stated that the Research Council schedule will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the Executive Dining Room at the University Center for the remainder of the academic year.

The September 16, 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted and will be posted on the web page.

Lee Han recently attended an Executive Council Meeting where the Chancellor spoke. Per Lee Han the Chancellor made reference to Top 25 Research University and Top 25 Research Institute. Wes Hines explained that the research aspect of Top 25 Research University is specifically about total expenditures in research. Top 25 metrics are federal and total research expenditures because we have data from other institutions to benchmark against.

Per Lee Han the Chancellor also discussed using a portion of the \$5.7M for additional funding for students to travel to present research.

Lee Han stated that people are still needed on some of the committees that the Research Council supports. Volunteers were obtained for each committee as follows:

- Centers Review Committee: Chris Boake, Robert Muenchen, Martin Griffin, Thomas Handler, and Maryann Raeeszadeh

- Chancellors Awards Committee: Bill Dunne, Jim Conant, Tom Handler, Steven Yen, JoAnne Deeken, and Kim Newkirk
- SARIF EPPE Committee: Joanne Hall, Yuri Kamyshkov, Steven yen, JoAnne Deeken, and Ken Phillips
- SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Committee: Bill Dunne, Yuri Kamyshkov, Martin Griffin, Doug Birdwell, and Federico Harte
- SARIF Graduate Research Assistantship Committee: Jim Conant, Steven Yen, Yuri Kamyshkov, Kim Newkirk, and Nigel Vorbrich
- By-Laws Committee: Steven Yen, Lee Han, James Conant, and Joanne Hall

Update from the Office of Research

Wes Hines, Interim VC for Research

Wes Hines reviewed his discussion at last month's meeting about the Top 25 and research numbers. 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 metrics are the total expenditures and federal expenditures. Publications and scholarly activities are to be tracked internally.

A Top 25 committee will prioritize how the \$5.7M should be invested next year and send the recommendation to the Chancellor. The committee will recommend that a portion of the \$5.7M be used towards funding student's research with cost matching required. Another recommendation will be to provide funding for "bottleneck" courses. These are courses where possibly enough laboratories are not available to accommodate a course or not enough lecturers or GTAs to support a course. The university does not currently have a good data system to know what is needed.

Wes Hines commented on comments that were made regarding the inadequacy of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) and comments on the way the search was conducted for a new vice president for UTRF. Wes Hines is confident that the person selected for the Vice President for the UTRF is well qualified for the position and will help to improve the functions of the foundation. Wes Hines suggested that the Research Council invite Stacey Patterson as a guest speaker, and Doug Birdwell suggested inviting David Millhorn or the president as a guest speaker at one of the Research Council Meetings and let them discuss the future expectations of the UTRF. State legislators and Alex Miller visited Utah to see an example of a research foundation at a top university. Funds have not been identified that are needed to fix the problems with UTRF.

Greg Reed, Associate Vice Chancellor

The SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure proposal deadline has been extended to Oct. 28th.

The Office of Research's Policies/Administrative Policies website link has been updated to include the Faculty Research Incentive Plan.

The Office of Research started distributing a newsletter about three years ago. Greg Reed asked the Research Council Members if they thought the newsletter should be sent out electronically instead of hardcopy. The majority of the Research Council Members like to receive the hard copy. These newsletters are currently archived on the Office of Research's website already.

Doug Birdwell began a discussion about the various ways, particularly SharePoint, the university has to share documents among groups. SharePoint is not adequate for a lot of groups, and the university needs to find a system that will accommodate the faculty's needs.

New Business

Discussion on VC for Research Search

Wes Hines gave an update on the Vice Chancellor of Research search. There will be a total of five candidates. Four have already been interviewed. The last one is scheduled to interview on October 19 & 20th. Members of the Research Council were encouraged to attend. Chris Boake is on the search committee. She commented on the wide range of qualifications the candidates have and the strength of the candidates. The search committee would like input on the candidates from the Research Council Members.

Future Meeting Activities

Lee Han asked for suggestions on future meeting activities. Some suggestions were:

- Internal Review Board (IRB) Guest Speaker
- Neuro Science Studies Guest Speaker
- University of Tennessee Research Foundation Guest Speaker
- Infrastructure for Collaboration
- Housing for Graduate Students and Visitors

A Research Council member suggested forming an ad hoc committee for the University of Tennessee Research Foundation.

Doug Birdwell discussed the lack of communication between facility users and facility committees for new construction and renovations. Faculty's input is not being sought before decisions are being made about equipment requested, wiring needed, internet needs, etc. Faculty's suggestion on specific furniture and space layout is not being considered in the final plans. Wes Hines commented that consultants, who will coordinate these issues, will be hired for future construction projects. On Oct. 3rd an Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities was hired. This person will help get control over these types of issues.

There was a discussion regarding housing for graduate students and visitors coming to campus. The university does not offer housing for them. In some cases, faculty can spend a lot of their time finding housing for their graduate students and visitors. Wes Hines commented on a study, which showed plenty of housing in Knoxville. Wes Hines suggested inviting Tim Rogers to be a guest speaker at one of the Research Council Meetings, and let Tim Rogers explain how these needs can be met easier.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor