

University of Tennessee Research Council
October 26, 2009
University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337
3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Ken Stephenson, Chair	Brent Mallinckrodt
Brad Fenwick	Abby Mello
Mathew Fleisher	Lynne Parker
Michael Handelsman	Natalia Pervukhin
Thomas Handler, Proxy	Greg Reed
Jill Keally	Jon Shefner
Jun Lin	Timothy Young

Guest Attending:

Monica Cole	Randy Gentry
Ray DeGennaro	John Hopkins

Welcoming

Ken Stephenson welcomed everyone. He welcomed Abby Mello and Mathew Fleisher who are representatives from the Graduate Student Senate.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Michael Handelsman and seconded by Lynne Parker to approve the September 28, 2009 minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Opening Remarks – Ken Stephenson

Ken Stephenson's stated that these are emergency times for research planning in regards to stimulus funding plans, budget cuts, and effects the budget cuts are going to have on research. He encouraged suggestions from the council on what budget concerns should be presented and how to express concerns before budget decisions have been made.

Update from Office of Research – Brad Fenwick and Greg Reed

Last year was a record year for research on campus and the first quarter this year is up 85% from last year. The campus will not be able to sustain that growth. Fenwick expects the campus to continue to grow but not at that rate. Bob Porter, known nationally for helping faculty write and get awards, has been hired to help faculty who have not been successful in getting grants. The Office of Research will be hiring a Director, Foundation and Corporate Engagement person who will work for Bob Porter.

Fenwick commented that the Undergraduate Research Program is new in research. Statistics show that undergraduate students who participate in research have a ¼ point

higher GPA and it doubles the rate on retention. Greg Reed is working on a process to make this successful here.

Fenwick discussed certification in Responsible Conduct of Research. Beginning January 4, 2011, NSF is requiring all undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty working on new NSF grants to be certified in Responsible Conduct. It is being discussed how often is certification required and what to do if someone refuses to be certified. Certification and the exam are available on the Office of Research's website under Faculty & Staff Development link (website: <http://research.utk.edu/training/>). Anyone with a utk.edu e-mail account can log in. Certification and the exam are also available through CITI.

Reed commented that the Office of Research's website has been rebuilt during the past year. It continues to expand. There are numerous workshops available which can be found on the Office of Research's website under the Faculty & Staff Development link. The Proposal Development link describes what is needed to develop a proposal. The Office of Research's website will continue to expand.

Reed stated that he attended the SRA International 2009 Annual Meeting. The conference provided information about issues some other universities have dealt with as well as issues the University of Tennessee has dealt with.

The Office of Research provides information to faculty regarding "Targeted Funding Opportunities" which is a review of new opportunities. These opportunities can be found on the Office of Research's website (<http://research.utk.edu/funding/>).

Reed is requesting feed-back on the effectiveness of the Office of Research's website.

Stephenson asked the status of an NSF audit that was done across many departments. Fenwick answered that Chris Cimino handled the audit and there were no real flags.

Ken Stephenson – New Business

Stephenson introduced Randy Gentry, President of UT Research Foundation, and John Hopkins, Vice President of UT Research Foundation. The UT Research Foundation is one of two: Memphis Office, headed by Dr. Richard Magid; and UT Knoxville Office, headed by Dr. John A. Hopkins. Central offices are headed by the vice president and have executive committees made up of faculty from that campus and business people in the community. The UT Research Foundation mission is to: protect, manage and commercialize UT inventions (intellectual property, or "IP"); grow the UT research enterprise; develop and support an entrepreneurial culture; and contribute to state and regional economic development.

Gentry commented on the 2010 Technology Maturation Funding Program which is to help UT researchers further develop technologies that have the potential for commercial success. Up to \$15,000 (direct costs) will be awarded to the highest ranking proposals.

Stephenson spoke about the stimulus money from the government which will expire July 1, 2011. He is concerned because each unit is submitting a report to the Provost regarding the effects of the end of stimulus funds. The Research Council has not been given an

opportunity to express the effect this will have on research. The Research Council needs to get recognition on how to protect research funding. Stephenson is concerned that administration will use F&A for non research purposes. Fenwick explained that the campus policy is for 40% of F&A goes to sponsoring college and 60% goes to the general budget. It is up to the college how their 40% is spent. The 60% that goes to the campus goes into general budget and gets mixed with all other funds. These comments led to a lengthy discussion between Research Council members. Stephenson asked the Research Council to get a statement to the Provost regarding what is at risk for research funding.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor