

University of Tennessee Research Council

November 12, 2007

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30 p.m.

Attending:

Bill Blass, Vice-Chair
Janet Brown
Ramon DeGennaro
Denny Dukes
Glenn Graber
Mary Gunther
Ray Hamilton
Tom Ladd
Carol Malkemus

Larry McKay
C. Roland Mote
Bob Muenchen
Thandi Onami
Ken Phillips
Stan Pinkleton
Greg Reed
Ken Stephenson
GSS – Brandice Green
GSS – Matthew Fleisher

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from October 15, 2007 were approved as submitted with no changes.

Opening Comments

Bill Blass welcomed those present and explained that he will be chairing this meeting in Joanne Hall's absence.

Committee/Task Force Chair Reports

There were no committee or task force chair reports.

New Business

System/Campus Issues

Bill stressed the importance of paying attention to the system/campus situation because it strongly affects research. He referred those in attendance to the November 9 email from Joanne, in which she suggested moving to a Committee of the Whole during this meeting to discuss recent statements regarding system/campus issues, and their implications relative to research. Prior to moving into a Committee of the Whole, Bill read several key excerpts from the Management and Reporting Responsibilities statement which came

from President Petersen and Chancellor Crabtree last week, and David Patterson's address to the Board of Trustees on November 9.

Council moved into a Committee of the Whole at 3:50 p.m.

The following ideas and questions were discussed:

- Did the Board of Trustees re-visit the Master Plan during their recent meeting? Was it on their agenda?
- Is the Cherokee campus the best location for a research facility?
- Has the Faculty Senate response been weak? They have talked about dorms and playing fields, ideas which do not compete well against economic development. The Senate has asked for a committee to address the issues.
- Perhaps the Cherokee campus could be used for MRI, Epscor types of research.
- It is difficult to facilitate multi-disciplinary projects across this campus. Communication is a problem. There should be a way for researchers to meet on a regular basis. If research faculty are to have any impact, they will need to communicate to form consensus. Could Brad Fenwick assist in getting researchers together regularly?
- Are there other properties that the System could consider for the planned uses?
- Could the University seek more financial partnering with corporations, similar to the way South Carolina has planned a research center where company researchers will work closely with university researchers? In that case, corporations handled most of the cost and only a small percentage had to come from the university.
- A research center that would encourage sharing resources such as space, equipment and staff would help grant dollars go further.
- Space is a problem for many of the colleges on campus.
- Would an on-line faculty survey be an effective way to compile data regarding the needs and priorities of researchers on campus?
- Would it be a good idea to send representatives to meet with President Petersen? Perhaps Brad could get together a group of researchers who are ready to share statistics about grants and contracts – what we are getting, and what we are losing.
- Social and behavioral sciences could be as productive as lab sciences. Issues related to aging are becoming more critical and there is money available for that type of research.

The Committee of the Whole session ended at 4:35 p.m. Bill suggested that council members submit a paragraph or two of ideas about what UT needs to do to engage faculty and facilitate communication about how to grow research, to Joanne at jhall7@utk.edu. (Please copy Bill at wbllass@utk.edu).

Old Business:

Research Data and Tangible Research Property Policies

It was decided that no action would be taken today on the Research Data and Tangible Research Property policies. Council members should review the policies and email specific concerns to Joanne within the next two weeks. She will circulate that information to members prior to the next meeting. Concerns regarding specific language or issues that are not fully addressed by the proposed policies can be explored and perhaps resolved prior to the December meeting so that action can be taken as quickly as possible. Greg Reed stated that these documents have been approved by the Memphis, and that we are in an uncomfortable situation without a policy in place.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer M. Hall

Action Items

Greg Reed: Policy on Research Data & Tangible research Property