

## University of Tennessee Research Council

November 28, 2005

Fourth Floor Conference Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

<b>Attendees:</b>	Thomas Handler, Chair	W. Frank Harris
	Mary Bartolini	Julie Little
	Gary Bates	Vena Long
	Pauline Bayne	Lillian Mashburn
	Bill Blass	Robert Moore
	Billie J. Collier	Stefan Richter
	Wayne T. Davis	Ken Stephenson
	Bill Dunne	Suzan Thompson
	Arlene Garrison	Jeanine Williamson
	Randall Gentry	John Wodarski
	Ray Hamilton	Clifton Woods

### Comments from the Research Office

Dr. Woods asked that RC review and revise the University's policy on misconduct in research. This was last reviewed in the 1990's and it is very likely not in compliance with current regulations. As this is a university-wide policy, each campus will need to have input.

Dr. Woods noted that research and sponsored project awards are significantly up for the fiscal year 2005. This will mean additional F&A income. One item that Dr. Woods would like to support is a subvention fund to support book publishing where some initial support is required by the publisher.

Efforts are underway to re-structure one of the THEC Centers, Waste Management and Environmental Research Institute (WMERI). The intent is to merge WMERI with elements from Energy, Environment Research Center(EERC) and the UT/ORNL/TVA Joint Institute for Energy and Environment (JIEE). A proposal has been made to THEC. The re-worked institute would be called the Institute for Secure and Sustainable Environment. If plans progress as proposed, the new institute would be stood up on July 1, 2006.

Dr. Woods reported that he had secured funds to publish a campus research magazine, *Explorations*. (Publication of this magazine was suspended several years ago due to financial exigencies.) The purpose of the magazine would be to communicate broadly outside the University on what is happening with regards to research at UT. The magazine will be theme-based (e.g., materials science, computing, etc.) with additional

sections on other research and scholarly activities. The expected publication date is in late summer 2006.

Dr. Woods reported on the Governor's Chairs (\$2.5 million this year matched by \$2.5 Million from ORNL). There are several searches that are on-going – directorships for the Joint Institutes for Neutron Sciences, Computational Sciences, and Biological Sciences. Candidates for two of the Joint Institutes were in negotiations, but fell through for various reasons. The searches are still ongoing. The question has arisen whether the searches are being pursued in the correct way.

At the November meeting of NASULGC a recurring theme from agencies and institutions was the US position of excellence with respect to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) graduates. Much discussion centered on a recently released report by the National Academy of Science (Rising above the Gathering Storm). Dr. Woods was elected to the Board of Directors. Also at NASULGC, Mrs. Lillian Mashburn received a national award, the Carolyn Cross Award for Excellence in Government Relations.

Dr. Collier reported on the outcome of the competition for Chancellor's Awards to Pursue Funding in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Applied Social Sciences. Seven awards were made from 11 applications, all from the College of Arts and Sciences. There were NO applications from any other eligible College.

Work on COEUS is progressing well. The test units (Agricultural Experiment Station and Chemical Engineering Department are now working on beta version of routing and approval of dummy proposals. Dr. Collier also praised the diligence of the group (led by Jim Lloyd) working with MIT and other institutions on the development of COEU which is still the only system to system program interacting with Grants.gov.

A recent concern was raised at a Faculty Senate working session about campus security. Dr. Collier noted that UT has to have in place security plans and measures for biosafety and radiological safety. These procedures receive on-going scrutiny. Her Office is working with Environmental Safety and health to make sure other training (e.g., chemical safety) is up to date. Animal care is addressed under a separate committee and each facility has security measures.

Mrs. Mashburn reported on Federal relations. NSF appropriations passed with higher numbers than expected, Energy and Water passed and Oak Ridge and East Tennessee came through as expected, Homeland Security appropriations passed but there is very little for universities. Defense has not passed. It is hoped that a satisfactory compromise can be reached the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>. The numbers for 6.1 and 6.2 look OK. The delay has to do with torture and a plan to manage the Iraq situation. Labor/HHS was defeated and is back in committee (no doubt behind the recent notifications from NIH about awards).

## Associate Dean's Reports/Comments

### EPPE

Dr. Harris reviewed the past month's EPPE requests. Dr. Handler reported on the on-going review of guidelines for requesting EPPE support. Dr. Harris commented that asking for electronic submission would expedite the process and minimize lost or delayed proposals.

### Centers Review

This committee is scheduled to meet December 5 to discuss individual reviews.

### Research Data and Intangible Research Property

This subcommittee will meet in the near future, perhaps after finals.

### Upcoming Work

Dr. Handler reminded the members of upcoming work:

- The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence and Promise  
Dr. Dunne asked if any action had been taken on the request from last year to increase the number of Chancellor's awards to junior faculty. [Dr. Crabtree was consulted and agreed to increase the number of such awards by 2.]
- The SARIF Equipment Awards.  
A question was raised with regards to whether the awards are for research or for infrastructure? Or are these in fact the same?
- Dr. Handler also brought up the draft document on policies and procedures regarding postdoctoral appointments as a topic for discussion in the new year. He will contact Anne Mayhew concerning whether this topic will be on any agendas next year.

### Strategic Plan for Research

A question was raised whether anyone has heard anything with respect to The University's Strategic plan with regards to the research objectives and if so what they are? It was suggested that Dr. Handler contact the Faculty Senate president, Desiree Kennedy, to contact the President's Office as to what was presented to the Board of Trustees.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM