

The University of Tennessee Research Council
November 3, 2010
University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337
3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Members, Ex-officios, & GSS Representatives Attending:

Ken Stephenson, Chair	Barbara Klinkhammer
Chris Boake	Tom Ladd
Scott Gilpatric	Clea McNeely
Martin Griffin	Bob Muenchen
Joanne Hall	Leon Potgieter
Jennifer Hendricks	Greg Reed
Wes Hines	Gregory Sedrick
Baoshan Huang	Steven Yen

Guest Attending:

Wayne Davis	Thomas Handler
Carol Malkemus	Barbara (Bobbie) Suttles

Ken Stephenson thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of Minutes:

The October 6, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted and will be posted on the web page.

Opening Remarks – Ken Stephenson

Ken Stephenson commented on Chancellor Jimmy Cheek would be joining the meeting for an open question/answer session on research and creative achievement. Ken Stephenson encouraged everyone to ask questions.

Everyone present was asked to introduce themselves.

Ken Stephenson gave an update on the various committees that the Research Council oversees:

Centers Review Committee – needs a Chair

Chancellor's Awards Committee – Tom Handler will be the Chair

SARIF EPPE Committee – No Chair required

SARIF Equipment & Infrastructure Committee – Yuri Kamyshkov is the Chair
Responsible Conduct of Research Committee - Jennifer Hendricks will be the Chair
SARIF Graduate Research Assistantship Committee – needs a Chair

A list of committee members for each committee will be posted on the Research Council's website.

**Update from the Office of Research –
Wes Hines, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research**

At the last Research Council Meeting Wes Hines discussed the Directors, Deans, and Department Heads Retreat hosted by the Chancellor and the initiatives that were outlined by that group. The next steps of Vol Vision/Top 25 Task Force are five task forces: (1) Undergraduate Education- report due to Board of Trustees in February; (2) Graduate Education – Chair, Carolyn Hodges; (3) Research – Chair, Wes Hines with Task Force Greg Reed, Ken Stephenson, Bill Dunne, Bob Rider, Tom Ladd, Carol Tenopir, Chris Boake, and Bill Brown; (4) Faculty – Chair, Sarah Gardial; and (5) Infrastructure and Campus Operations. Other than Infrastructure and Campus Operations there are four task forces with four chairs. Those four chairs are on the Infrastructure and Campus Operations Task Force which is chaired by Chris Cimino. Wes Hines commented that the Research Task Force needs additional information from various people. The next step will occur at the end of this month with a meeting with consultants and the task force chairs and they will be given their charge. A report will be due by the end of spring semester. Wes Hines explained how the Research Task Force will approach their charge. Ken Stephenson will keep the Research Council updated. The Research Council's feedback will be requested before it is presented to the Board. You may e-mail ideas to Wes Hines at jhines2@utk.edu.

Wes Hines continued to discuss possible metrics to be used and various ways to become a Top 25 university. There was also a discussion on what reports are used to determine the ranking for the Top 25 universities and if all satellite campuses are included at all university rankings in the reports being used.

Greg Reed, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

Greg Reed stated that the UT Office of Research's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010 has been released. It will be distributed to everybody that is on the Office of Research's Newsletter mailing list. He explained the layout of the annual report and how to interpret it in the new format. The Research Council's feedback on this report is appreciated. The Office of Research's website has a link to a whole series of reports in 5 year trend charts that are illustrated in this annual report. The peak in FY09 was a result of the Super Computer.

The Office of Research will be sending out an announcement this month for people interested in submitting proposals for the ORU Budget Hearings. He requested that the Research Council be a participant of the judging panel, scale the proposals, and tell the Office of Research what they think. All proposals submitted in the previous two years and how much funding each proposal received is posted on the Office of Research's website.

The Office of Research held their first Post Doc Workshop which was to supplement what faculty PIs do. There were 16 Post Docs who attended. The Office of Research will continue to offer this every semester.

The Office of Research is continuing to hold New Faculty Orientations. There were 29 who attended the last one. Encourage all new faculty to attend so they know the resources that are available to them.

New Business

Chancellor Jimmy Cheek: open question/answer session on research and creative achievement

Ken Stephenson welcomed Chancellor Jimmy Cheek to the meeting. Chancellor Cheek suggested starting off with a question/answer session instead of any opening remarks.

Ken Stephenson asked Chancellor Cheek his response and the university's response to the NRC Rankings. Ken Stephenson may propose to form a Research Council sub-committee to look at those rankings. Chancellor Cheek stated that the rankings had been long coming and are fairly complex to understand. He will take any advice from the Research Council and from Wes Hines and Greg Reed on how the rankings might be analyzed. It is not clear how the disciplines are defined. The NRC Rankings are five years old. Things are significantly different than they were five years ago. Several people joined in on the discussion on other ranking reports that are available and how the NRC Ranking is not adequate for a rapidly changing program. Chancellor Cheek discussed the various reports he has reviewed and the ones that are the best indicators of our university. He would like a report with more emphasis on how we compare to the Top 25 universities in the country breaking them down into more discipline, same type of criteria, discipline specific kinds of majors, and maybe some more criteria and make the judgment yourself. Increasing our visibility in the regional and national associations is very important. The Governor's Chair Program is about five years old. In the first 3 ½ years one Governor's Chair was hired. In the last two years seven Governor's Chairs have been hired. There are probably four active searches going on at this point and time. It is important to hire young and rising star faculty for disciplines. Chancellor Cheek stated that we are in a very tough economical time. We have lost \$57M in the last 2 ½ years which is 30% of what the state gives us. This last year colleges took no additional cuts although the university took \$12M. We have had a 9% tuition increase. Seven percent of that 9% went to take care of the \$12M cut so it was not allocated. The money we have for faculty is currently in colleges. Chancellor Cheek's prospective is that it is better to hire assistant professors than it is to hire very high level professors and watch the assistant professors grow. He thinks start-up funds should not be a limiting factor in hiring faculty. There should be a capacity to negotiate start-up costs. Wes Hines is looking at how we go about allocating start-up cost. Our most critical need is space for science buildings. The Master Plan will show a science/engineering complex that has facilities.

Chancellor Cheek commented that the university is doing much better in research than in undergraduate education. The weakest point on this campus is retention of freshmen to sophomore and graduation rates. If we can move those two metrics, we will significantly change the ranking of this university. We are doing a lot better in research. Last year grants in contracts increased \$10M on this campus. The year before that it accelerated at 104%. We are still a long way off of our target for the

Top 25. The Top 25 target is \$414M and we are \$188M. We can move up more rapidly in the rankings if we improve the undergraduate rankings. This is something he has to sell to the state. Research and scholarship is a critical part of the Top 25. Chancellor Cheek was in a Tennessee Business Round Table Meeting where the Governor spoke regarding the funding formula and maintaining the path.

Ken Stephenson expressed his concern of PhD graduates not increasing and the loss of emphasis on research. Chancellor Cheek commented on the various funds that are being provided to improve these areas. Chancellor Cheek explained where funding to support graduate student support was used this year. He also discussed the plans to use funds for student research in the coming year. To be the university we want to be in the future we have got to increase our grants and contracts, scholarship, quality of the assistant professors, research and scholarship expectations of new faculty, more PhD students, endowments, and money.

Ken Stephenson commented on how the Research Council advocates for research. He thanked Chancellor Cheek for coming to the Research Council Meeting. Chancellor Cheek suggested reassuring people that Wes Hines, Greg Reed, and himself are interested to know if there is anything that they can do to assist or improve the university.

Chancellor Cheek commented on how everyone needs to do what we can to make the university a better place.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor