

University of Tennessee Research Council

November 10, 2008

University Center, Executive Dining Room, Room 337

3:30 p.m.

FINAL

Attending:	Joanne Hall, Chair	Yuri Kamyshkov
	Bill Blass	James Larson
	Christopher Clark	Carol Malkemus
	Jim Conant	Gina Pighetti
	Ramon DeGennaro	Greg Reed
	Bill Dunne	Joan Rentsch
	Greer Fox	Klaus Vandenberg
	Glenn Garber	Peiling Want
	Bill Hofmeister	Abby Mello, GSS
	Patti Johnstone	Dan Stypa, GSS

Approval of Minutes:

The October 13, 2008 meeting minutes were amended to include Stefanie Ohnesorg as attending. The amended minutes were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks – Joanne Hall

Joanne Hall thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She welcomed people who had never attended and expressed her appreciation for having graduate student representation. She also mentioned that Brad Fenwick and Ken Stephenson were both out of town.

Joanne Hall gave an update on the October 22, 2008 meeting with Graduate Council to discuss a forum. The Graduate Council did not reflect an interest in being a sponsor. The Research Council will sponsor the Forum in the spring. The Forum will have a range of faculty to address various prospective on graduate student education and how to link them to research. Possible topics to discuss are: more assistance to get research off the ground; should every graduate student have an opportunity for research; encouraging graduate student to interface with research; international student's involvement in research; and lack of students available to work with faculty. Abby Mello, GSS, offered assistance in contacting graduate students. Information that would be helpful from graduate students is: what does research students find problematic; do graduate students want research; and barriers that arise for graduate students. Graduate students will be invited to be a part of the Forum. E-mail topic suggestions to Joanne Hall.

Joanne Hall encouraged the Research Council Committees to work on committee structures and to set up goals. She explained that Policies and Procedures require a certain number of people to be on committees and that is why each committee has several people on them.

Greg Reed commented on a report the Center Review Committee submitted which recommends a process for centers to be reviewed. The report recommends that the review schedule for centers be reset to start in spring 2009 and it has been decided to implement the recommendations from this report. Centers which receive funding will be reviewed yearly at research budget hearings. Centers which do not receive funding will continue to be reviewed every five years. A review plan will be put together as soon as the Center Review Committee is finalized. Each semester four centers will be reviewed. If a new center is organized it will be reviewed in 5 years if it does not receive funding. Greg Reed also explained that centers which get funding will now have budget hearings for their centers. These centers will present the centers primary goals for the past year, how the new term goals contribute to the long-range vision, a review of organizational structure and key personnel, and a progress report. The budget hearings are also the time for faculty who want to start a center or request funding for a center which has never received funding to present their request. Potential new centers will present a campus-level funding proposal and a review of how these investments can be expected to provide substantial returns over the next two to three years, including any variables that may influence the chances of success. The hearings will be at the end of January. Greg Reed asked that members of the Research Council Center Review Committee attend the hearings to participate in determining which centers should receive funding. Greg stressed the importance of this committee being present at the hearings.

Professional Development Award (PDA) Funds were discussed regarding them receiving the kind of support they deserve. It was explained that the funds are administered by the Graduate School. It has been discussed by Greg Reed and Brad Fenwick if these funds should be merged with the Office of Research so the funds will be more functional. The Research Council is represented on the PDA Committee.

Greg Reed announced the retirement of Chris Cox and Carolyn Webb at the end of the year.

Greg Reed gave an update on position changes occurring in the Office of Research. He stated that he should be making an offer soon to fill the Assistant Director positions. The search committee for the Director position plans to interview the first of December. A good applicant pool has been received for all these positions. The Associate Vice Chancellor position which Billie Collier held has been vacant for over 1 year. Permission has been approved to fill this position and it is now advertised. The person in this position will focus on strategic programs and proposal development. Plans are to have someone in this position by January.

Greg Reed commented on the electronic research software which is being considered. It was developed by The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The Office of Research has named the software TERA for Tennessee Electronic Research

Administration. The Research Council will be asked in the spring to take a look at it to make sure it is intuitive and give their feedback.

The Office of Research is getting more intentional about training. Two staff have been assigned to put various training options on the web. Feedback is requested.

Greg Reed stated that Brad Fenwick has developed a program called “Bridge Gap” and will be available next semester. This program is designed to keep research alive between research contracts. The funds for this program will come from F&A on the UTK campus. Other campuses will not be a part of this.

Joanne Hall commented that the Quest Newsletter is a good addition. Greg Reed stated that it is archived on the web where it can provide historical purposes and provide valuable information.

Joanne Hall asked for reports from committees:

Center Evaluation Committee – No report. Ramon DeGennaro will call a committee meeting and e-mail Joanne Hall the results of the meeting.

Policy & Procedures Committee – Committee has met and they are seeking a committee chair. They have discussed an item as a task. They are suggesting using the BlackBoard to post committee information. This will provide historical information for the committee in the future.

Research & Infrastructure Committee – Bill Dunne requested central guidance on what topic the committee should address. It was suggested to identify equipment grants and what equipment would be beneficial to researchers.

Research Promotion Committee- Glenn Graber has agreed to be the chair. He will schedule a meeting.

Joanne Hall stated that Wes Hines could not be present to give an update on a meeting that was held on October 31, 2008 to discuss the new ledgers designed by Sponsored Projects Accounting. Feedback from individuals who attended the meeting indicated that the new ledgers would be very helpful. Carol Malkemus provided copies of the new ledgers for review. The time frame is spring 2009 to roll over to the new ledgers.

Greg Reed stated that there will be an all day workshop for new investigators that will go through the pathway to be an investigator in general and to be an investigator at this university.

Joanne Hall stated that the Research Council is to submit a report to the Executive Committee on committee activities. E-mail her any suggestions. She will submit the report by the end of the semester.

Bill Blass commented the T-mail system and its inability to meet the needs of people who send attachments. It was suggested to log specific ideas and contact OIT to discuss a solution.

Old Business

Research Data and Tangible Research Property Statements – Greg Reed stated that the Office of Research has made the changes suggested by the Faculty Senate and the Research Council has approved them. It was suggested that the Research Data and Tangible Research Property Statements be sent to the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Taylor