

Research Council Meeting

November 12, 2014

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Blount Hall

Room A004

FINAL

Attendees

Tina Shepardson (Chair)
Chris Boake
Bill Dunne
Taylor Eighmy
Holly Mercer
Nathan Meek
Robert Muenchen

Lisa Mullikin
Janet Nelson
Jenny Onley
Chris Parigger
Allie Rhinehart
Micheline Van Riemsdijk

Guest

Carol Malkemus and Robert Nobles

Welcome and Remarks by the Chair – Tina Shepardson

Tina Shepardson thanked everyone for coming to the November Research Council (RC) Meeting.

Approval of minutes from September and October

A quorum of the RC members was not present, so the September, 10, 2014 and the October 8, 2014 minutes were not voted on. These minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

Industry-funded Research and UTK Faculty – Mark Dean (Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)

Tina Shepardson introduced the guest speaker, Mark Dean who is a Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and has 40 patents and has applied for six more. He was a researcher with IBM before coming to UTK, so he is very familiar with industry-funded research at IBM and their peer companies and how they need to do things for their measurements. Mark Dean's topic of discussion was a new UT push for industry-funded research and the impact it has on faculty. He requested an open discussion among all present. He expressed how important it is to have funding, interaction, and a relationship with industry. Some of the items discussed were:

- Funding and Partnerships with industries
- Industry expectations and when it engages because of the way it measures investments
- UTK's expectations of support provided by industry
- Investment/return challenges for industry and UTK
- Faculty challenges in getting tenure while having industry-funded research
- Intellectual property not a part of tenure for some colleges – Mark Dean thinks this is one of the gaps
- Examples of non-disclosure agreements
- Importance of patents to industry
- UTRF has a budget to support funding patent processes.

- Various stages of faculty expectations for applying for a patent
- Applying for a provisional patent and time frame
- Faculty balancing research, teaching, etc.
- Graduate student support on industry-funded research
- Industry providing people to teach classes and work with faculty on campus
- Sabbatical while doing industry research

Many people from UTK, including Taylor Eighmy, recently attended Association and Publication of Land Grant Universities (APLU). The senior leadership of APLU is working closely with the Provost's commission within APLU doing a survey around what institutions consider intellectual property, innovation, and commercialization as a form of scholarship.

Janet Nelson discussed her experience from the corporate world in collaborating on research with universities. Government collaborators pick projects that are publishable. Large proposals involve a lot of cost-share that industry covered. Sometimes faculty and industry need to discuss timelines because the speed in which some industries expect results can be a cultural gap. There is a lot of potential that can come out of it.

Mark Dean commented that the College of Engineering has had good feedback from industry with the Senior Project classes.

Mark Dean may be contacted at markdean@utk.edu if anyone wants to follow up on any of the discussion items.

Taylor Eighmy talked about funding challenges. The national landscape of the United States relative to federal investment strategy and the knowledge enterprise is a challenge and the amount of dollars spent by corporations is four to five times greater than the entire federal discretionary budget for discovery. Corporations are doing much more, and large foundations are now stepping into this void, so their creative capital is also on the table. He used the Gates Grant that Jimmy Mayes won as an example. Encouraged having conversations about foundations to build relations.

Business

Centers Review Committee update – Kenton Yeager

Kenton Yeager was not able to attend today, so Tina Shepardson gave an update for the Centers Review Committee. The committee is making good progress and plans to have the reviews completed by the end of next week.

Bylaws Changes Update – Tina Shepardson

The Bylaws changes recommended by the Research Council to the Faculty Senate have been approved by the Faculty Senate. The revised bylaws will be posted on the web soon.

New Core Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) – Janet Nelson

Janet Nelson thanked the RC for having someone on the CFAC to help determine the best practices for core facilities. The CFAC will be having their first meeting in December. The CFAC will keep the RC updated.

Janet Nelson thanked the SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Committee for their hard work. There were a lot of very strong proposals. There were \$750,000 request and a budget of \$300,000 so some tough decisions had to be made. ORE will post the funded awards on the website.

Update on conversations about IRB, IBC, iMedris – Tina Shepardson

Tina Shepardson noted that she has been helping to facilitate some meetings as chair of the RC between faculty and ORE regarding issues related to IRB, IBC, and iMedris processes on campus. There will be another meeting next Wednesday to discuss issues raised by some faculty related to human subjects research oversight on campus. Questions or issues can be shared with Tina Shepardson at cshepard@utk.edu or Joanne Hall at jhall7@utk.edu.

RC Senator Needed: UTK Institutional Compliance Committee (ICC) – Tina Shepardson

Tina Shepardson announced that the UTK Institutional Compliance Committee requested representation of the Faculty Senate on their committee. This committee reports to the Chancellor, has representation from each of the Vice Chancellors, and is chaired by Robert Nobles. Tina Shepardson will look at the list of RC members to try to identify a member familiar with topics to be considered by this committee. The Faculty Senate plans to have two representatives on the ICC.

Robert Nobles explained that each compliance committee is led by a faculty member and there are 18 faculty members on the IRB. There was a lengthy discussion on changes, issues, and concerns that people have brought to the committee's attention. Taylor Eighmy discussed how many of the expressed questions are issues that are being discussed on a national stage. The rules that govern human subject research activities are derived from the Office of Human Research Protection, who has cast a broad net about oversight matters. OHRP admits that they need to dial it back and they are currently working on an Advanced Notice of Public Rule Making, which has been in discussions for the past two years. The exact issues being discussed at UTK are surfacing at other institutions and we are trying to work through them.

New Business

Speaker suggestions?

Sally Morris from UTRF

Taylor Eighmy and/or John Zomchick – discuss research expenditures and quantitative data analysis

Meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Jane Taylor