

# University of Tennessee Research Council

December 10, 2007

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30 p.m.

**DRAFT**

**Attending:**

Joanne Hall, Chair  
Bill Blass, Vice-Chair  
Mary Bartolini  
Bob Cargile - EHHS  
Wayne Davis  
Ramon DeGennaro  
Brad Fenwick  
Mary Gunther  
Carol Malkemus  
Michael McNeil - OIT

C. Roland Mote  
Bob Muenchen - OIT  
Stephanie Ohnesorg  
Ken Phillips  
Stan Pinkleton - OIT  
Greg Reed  
Ken Stephenson  
Johanna Stiebert  
Tse-Wei Wang  
GSS – Matthew Fleisher

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from November 12, 2007 were approved after the deletion of **Action Item 1**. Tse-Wei Wang requested the deletion. She initially raised the item for discussion, but she has no ability to effect change in HR limits to salaries of contract employees. Brad Fenwick stated that the situation of HR limits is being looked at.

**Opening Remarks – Joanne Hall and Bill Blass**

Joanne Hall welcomed members and expressed her hope that this final meeting of the semester would move forward the ideas expressed in previous meetings and bring closure to some specific issues. She asked members to disregard the Research & Creative Achievement Award nomination form which was attached to her email. A newly updated form is now posted on the Office of Research website. It can be found on the Quick Links list as Chancellor's Awards.

Bill Blass shared two specific goals which he thought might be accomplished through the Research Council: 1) Organize a colloquium, in a central location such as the library auditorium, where faculty could convey their thoughts on the role of a "flagship" university; and, 2) Focus on creating a research evaluation process capable of serving a world-class research institute, resting on a six-seven year rolling average rather than an annual cycle. Relative to IT issues, Bill suggested that researchers collect and forward their concerns and ideas to the appropriate people in IT.

## **New Homeland Security Chemical Compliances – Greg Reed**

Greg Reed reported on his participation in a recent teleconference on this subject. The University of Tennessee is one of the few universities with an existing chemical inventory. He asked members to refer to Mark Smith's article on a new law titled "Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standard" in the first issue of the Office of Research newsletter. Faculty will be receiving additional information encouraging them to keep their inventory up-to-date.

The Office of Research newsletter will come out biweekly. Old issues will be archived on the OR website. Items for the newsletter can be forwarded to Greg Reed at [gdreed@utk.edu](mailto:gdreed@utk.edu) or Bill Dockery at [dockeryb@utk.edu](mailto:dockeryb@utk.edu). Early next semester the Office of Research will launch a "brag" sheet which will feature news on specific awards and researchers.

Ken Stephenson suggested that the word "research" be given more prominence in the newsletter heading. Brad Fenwick said that new branding will be coming out soon and the word "research" will be more visible. Members also suggested that the paper color of the newsletter remain the same for easier recognition.

## **Research Strategic Planning Process – Brad Fenwick**

Brad distributed a hand out: the "America COMPETES Act" (Public Law 1100-69). He highlighted specific language regarding "mentoring activities", to illustrate NSF's current focus on "broader impact". He explained that this document affects only NSF now, but will eventually spread to other agencies. Whenever Federal funding gets tight, compliance goes up. He believes that an institution can turn a compliance issue into a competitive edge.

A short group discussion took place regarding the document and its implications for future research projects.

Brad took a moment to talk about his role on the Provost's strategic planning committee. He will be assisting in the development of the research subcommittee and hopes to draw on this council for members.

Brad also reported that the search for Lillian Mashburn's replacement is moving forward.

## **Committee/Task Force Chair Reports**

There were no reports given. Joanne Hall asked to be notified when someone has a committee or task force chair report so that it can be put on the agenda. She said that Dr. Gentry's report will be given at the first meeting in January.

Joanne has emailed David Patterson to inquire what steps are necessary to replace graduate student senate representative Valentina Kuznetsova, who is graduating and will no longer be participating in the Council.

## **New Business**

### Faculty Researchers' Roles in Strategic Planning for Research Growth

Brad Fenwick explained his strategic planning philosophy. A situation where certain programs are selected for growth and others are cut is not successful. Circumstances and priorities change too fast to allow those types of decisions. We cannot anticipate Federal interests therefore flexibility is a key factor. He prefers to see colleges and departments set goals, priorities and develop their own strategies whenever possible. An institution can set principles, determine criteria and develop the processes which govern fund allocation, but should not get caught up in micro-management. Creativity will come at the tactical level.

The Provost's committee will work to develop a decision tree based on principles that will create the characteristics of a "flagship" research institution. Faculty will be in the forefront of these discussions.

Ken Stephenson commented that dollars alone shouldn't drive the process. Brad Fenwick agreed.

## **Old Business:**

### Research Data and Tangible Research Property Policies

Following a brief discussion, the Research Data and Tangible Research Property Policies were unanimously approved. They will be sent to Faculty Senate to be placed on their next agenda.

### Campus/System Issues regarding Researchers – Bill Blass

Bill Blass stressed the importance of having an internally cohesive campus. Joanne Hall asked council members to consider ways to facilitate a colloquium on campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer M. Hall