

University of Tennessee Research Council

December 12, 2005

Eighth Floor Board Room, Andy Holt Tower

3:30-5:00 PM

Attending:

Thomas Handler, Chair	W. F. Harris
Joanne M. Hall, Vice-Chair	Tom Ladd
Billie J. Collier	Julie Little
Wayne Davis	Lillian Mashburn
Bill Dunne	Clifton Woods
Arlene Garrison	

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved with a minor editorial correction.

Dr. Woods reported that the Chancellor had agreed to increase the number of Chancellor's Awards up to 4 in each category. [This solicitation went out the week of December 5, 2005.] The convened group discussed the excessive amount of materials accompanying each application and this will be monitored this year toward an improved process.

Dr. Woods reported that the Computer Upgrade Program was underway—parallel programs for faculty and staff. Dr. Woods stressed the role of Department Heads in establishing priorities as in past years. He also reported that staff in procurement will work with Heads to ensure that units are ordered properly.

Dr. Woods announced that he was proceeding to re-examine UTK's research misconduct policy. Since it was last reviewed several changes have occurred with Federal regulations and UTK needs to be in full compliance. His charge is to review our current policy against current federal guidelines and adjust accordingly. Dr. Billie Collier will chair this committee.

Dr. Harris reported that requests for proposals for equipment and infrastructure and summer GRA opportunities would be posted shortly after the first of the year. Discussion centered on making clear that equal importance of new equipment and repair/replacement of existing infrastructure.

Dr. Collier reported that her staff were responding to the concerns raised by the faculty Senate over security and safeguards on the research activities, especially biosafety and radiological safety and that these documents would be sent forward in the near future.

Dr. Collier also reported that workshops on export control were beginning for faculty and departments. Thus far Education, Health and Human Services, Engineering, Agricultural Experiment Station and Arts and Sciences have been briefed. She stressed that this set of regulations has far-reaching implications not only in research but potentially in the teaching mission of the University, even open video-conferencing. Ms. Mashburn commented that across universities, there is a great deal of concern about maintaining the basic research exemption currently in place.

Ms. Mashburn (Office of Federal Relations) provided an update on the status of appropriations bills in Congress. [Before the recess and after this meeting, Labor-HHS and Defense were both passed. The Budget Reconciliation bill was not passed and will be addressed when Congress come back into session in January.] She pointed out that the budget reconciliation contained massive cuts to various forms of aid, including student aid. There is a rising clamor in Washington, coming especially from groups like AAU, but also from Congressional leaders (e.g., Wolfe, Bohlert, Alexander) about deficiencies in research and education—all pointing to America's edge or lack thereof in economic competitiveness. That said, OMB passbacks for '07 are at best level for agencies like NSF.

Dr. Wayne Davis raised the concern that it was taking entirely too long to get approval for establishing a research center or institute. Opportunities arise, usually with substantial sums of money, and we as a University need to be able to respond rapidly. He cited recent examples from his College (Engineering). Dr. Harris acknowledged that some of the delay Dr. Davis cited was his fault, but agreed that the process was overly cumbersome on the front end. He offered to streamline the process, allowing work to start but retaining the current oversight by the Research Council.

Dr. Handler that the Research Data and Research Intangible Property working group was still working but not ready to report.

Dr. Handler also reported from the Campus Cybersecurity Task Force that new regulations would require that all computers to be declared surplus or transferred to another unit had to be sanitized. Unless Departments has expertise in-house, there would be a charge by OIT to do this.

Revised EPPE guidelines were distributed with a request for comment.

The meeting adjourned at 5 PM.