Research Council Meeting  
April 13, 2016, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
Blount Hall, Room A004

Attendees  
Ramki Kalyanaraman (chair)  
Matthew Cooper  
Alex Freire  
Rebecca Klenk  
Agricola Odoi  
Chris Parigger  
Tina Shephardson  
Micheline van Riemsdijk  
Shellen Wu  
Robert Muenchen

Welcome by the Chair: Ramki Kalyanaraman  
Ramki Kalyanaraman opened the meeting at 3:30 pm. A quorum of faculty senators was not initially present.

Business  

Presentations:  

1. Laboratory safety committee presentation: Robert Nobles and Terry Hazen  
The laboratory safety committee aims to enhance environmental health and safety, and biological- and radiation safety. The committee teaches faculty about these hazards. All UTK employees, students and guests have the right to work in an environment free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious injury.

Terry Hazen discussed major workplace hazards, including the death of a UCLA student. A woman in the Biochemistry Department at UCLA did not wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Her scarf caught fire and she died of burn injuries and respiratory problems. The faculty member responsible for the lab and UCLA were sued. Dr. Hazen also discussed an accident in 2010 at Texas Tech; another one a few months ago; and an explosion caused by hydrogen gas at a University of Missouri biochemistry lab. Dr. Hazen also showed a picture of a large burn in a lab coat that was caused by a flammable solvent at UT. The person took off the coat quickly and was not personally harmed.

Dr. Hazen discussed several ways to comply with lab safety rules. Lab coats should be kept in place and washed regularly; everyone should wear gloves and safety glasses; and no skin should be exposed (no Birkenstocks, no open lab coats). To improve safety in labs, UT checks fire extinguishers regularly.
The presenters identified a lab safety issue that warrants more attention. A student in a teaching lab at UT who had acid wash in his eyes did not know where the eye wash station was. He ran to another lab to seek help. Some eye wash stations at UT are not regularly tested, partly due to structural constraints. Older buildings have no drains beneath showers, making testing inconvenient and potentially damaging to the building.

Robert Nobles mentioned an ongoing discussion in the federal government if safety culture can be accredited. They may propose a chemical review committee that would include faculty in the review process, a similar structure as the IRB.

2. Presentation by Rachel Radom: Scholarly Publishing and Publication Librarian

Dr. Radom discussed traditional and new formats in scholarly communication, and related changes in copyright, author rights, and publishing rights. Large funding agencies increasingly require public access while publishers often want to retain copyright on articles. This raises important questions about ownership of the work. Dr. Radom argued that scholars should negotiate copyright before they sign a contract with a publisher. She may be able to assist in these discussions.

Ramki Kalyanaraman noted that publishing in open access journals is expensive ($1000-2500 per paper), and scholars may not take research serious if it is not peer-reviewed. Dr. Radom answered that UT Libraries has an open publishing support fund that can cover these costs.

Dr. Radom argued that it is necessary to reevaluate the current business model. Universities pay a lot of money to access scholarly work while publishers get much for free.

Rebecca Klenk asked about international copyrights for a book. Dr. Radom responded that she can assist with these negotiations.

Few faculty members upload their work to the online Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange (TRACE).

Vote on approval of the minutes from March 9, 2016
A quorum was reached and Ramki Kalyanaraman presented the March 9, 2016 minutes for approval. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Presentation by Micheline van Riemsdijk on iMedRIS issues

Micheline van Riemsdijk presented issues with the online IRB submission system iMedRIS. The comments are based on feedback from faculty and students in the
Geography Department. The submission system is difficult to navigate and time-consuming. The key issues are unclear questions (especially about medical research); an unclear routing system (a known issue); a hidden signing section; no warning if a submission has not been routed; unclear application status (it is not clear whether an application has been submitted); an unclear and time-consuming resubmission process; and unclear order of revisions. Dr. van Riemsdijk asked why UT had selected to use CITI training, and whether this training system has been evaluated. She suggested the following solutions: review of CITI training; linking CITI certificates to the iMedRIS system; providing clearer instructions in the iMedRIS system; a clearer routing system; use skip logic if no biomedical research will be conducted; creating an automated, pre-populated routing system; providing better help documents that are easier to find; creating a “one-stop shop” that can quickly answer IRB-related questions; and using the virtual desktop software Bongar that would allow IRB staff to see and navigate the desktop of callers (this system is used by OIT).

Agricola Odoi asked why UT uses the iMedRIS system. Robert Nobles responded that the iMedRIS system was launched September 2014. A study will be conducted in summer 2016 to examine the usability of the iMedRIS interface. The IRB and staff have visited departments, and have helped individuals submit an IRB proposal.

In response to the question why UT uses a medical system for IRB submissions, Dr. Nobles responded that many applicants use medical research.

Agricola Odoi mentioned that the problem with the system is the user interface. He argued that we need a new system. Robert Nobles responded that it is ineffective to make a home-grown system. There are three vendors for online submission systems, and iMedRIS seems to be the best option. The system has been used by the UT System for more than ten years, and UT Knoxville received a reduced rate when it introduced the software in 2014. The next best system is IRB Net.

Ramki Kalyanaraman suggested that Agricola Odoi would put together a committee that could affect change.

4. Center Reviews Update – Matt Cooper and Rebecca Klenk (postponed to next meeting).

Research Council Updates:

Ramki Kalyanaraman mentioned that we have to decide on a new Chair for the Research Council. Micheline van Riemsdijk was nominated for the position.

This announcement was followed by a brief discussion of the weakening of tenure at UT. Alex Freire urged Council members to respond to Bruce’s request for comments on CPR.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.