The University of Tennessee

Research Council

Minutes of the Meeting

April 11, 2018

Elected Members present:

Jay Chen, Yuri Efremenko, David Icove (via Zoom), Qiang He (Chair), Rebecca Koszalinski, Jacob Latham, Andreas Nebenfuehr, Greg Reynolds, Casey Sams, George, Siopsis, Soren Sorensen, Brynn Voy, and Tami Wyatt

Ex-Officio Members present:

Teri Baxter, Chris Boake, Bill Dunne, Robert Muenchen, Charles Noble, David White (via Zoom)

Call to order:

Qiang He called the meeting to order. A regular meeting of the Research Council was held at Blount Hall room A004 on April 11, 2018. The meeting called to order at 3:38 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The February and March minutes were approved.

Announcements and Reports

Core Facilities Advisory Committee – Bob Muenchen

The Core Facilities started three years ago under the direction of Dr. Janet Nelson, the then AVCRD. There were three facilities within the core program at initiation, the next two year six additional facilities were approved for core facility status, and this year seven including three within JIAM. The Core Facilities Advisory Committee is currently considering six more. This could total to 22, however, UTK is lagging behind most SEC schools who have a median of 54. In response to a question from the floor, it was added that the Core Facilities are unable to operate as a fully self-funded recharge centers and rely on subsidies from departments and ORE.

Centers and Institutes Review Committee – Juan Jurat-Fuentes

The Centers are scheduled to be reviewed this semester by the committee. The committee is currently reviewing the three submissions. The committee is expected to provide feedback and recommendations by May 7.

Summer Graduate Research Assistantship Review (GRA) Committee – George Siopsis

The GRA call for proposals was released on January 24. Thirty-four (34) proposals were received and the committee ranked and awarded 25, the maximum number. Faculty and students have been notified. The committee recommended that future committee members use A, B, C as grades when ranking the proposals.

Working Group for Human Subjects Research – Greg Reynolds

There are no other updates since last meeting.

Research Council Chair – Qiang He

Please provide chair nominations to Dr. He.

Presentations:

Office of Research Development – Victor McCrary

Upon arriving, ORE’s core team had an intensive review of the research enterprise during the onboarding process. Dr. McCrary wants to build on the last five years and move to where the Chancellor is going. UTK is not unique in its challenges; many peers are fearing the same.

ORE established four strategic objectives for FY 2019: Enhance ORNL engagement, diversity current sponsored funding portfolio, increase national research visibility and presence, and increase awareness of research compliance and safety. The FY 2019 goals include increasing total research expenditures by 5% to $213M; increase federal research expenditures by 5% to $115M; increase national faculty awards and fellowships by 10% to 18 awards; increase number of students engaged in undergraduate research and experiential learning projects by 7% to 2,400 students; and increase of local/national media citations o UTK research to 3 a week. While comparing to other institutions provide for valuable insight, unlike before, ORE will use a defined set of metrics with a defined set of peers. ORE’s budget includes adding resources to support the new proposed portfolio management structure, increase fellowship and awards, and Chem Safety.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: May 9, 2018 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.

Zoom Attendance: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/705429195>, please confirm with Paula Brown