The University of Tennessee

Research Council

Minutes of the Meeting

October 10, 2018

**Attendance:**

**Elected Members present:**

David Butler, Graciela Cabana, Jay Chen, Yuri Efremenko, Qiang He, David Icove, Julia Jaekel, Michael Kilbey, Rebecca Koszalinski, Andreas Nebenfuehr, Tore Olsson, Greg Reynolds, Stephen Paddison, Soren Sorensen (Chair), Andrew Yu, and Xiaopeng Zhao

**Ex-Officio Members present:**

Suzie Allard, Teri Baxter, Bill Dunne, Bruce LaMattina, Robert Muenchen, Charlie Noble, Robert Nobles, and Bill Nugent,

**ORE Members:**

Donna Cochran and Jean Mercer

**Call to order:**

Soren Sorensen called the meeting to order. A regular meeting of the Research Council was held at Blount Hall room A004 on October 10, 2018. The meeting called to order at 3:32 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of minutes to be approved electronically and minutes will be updated.

**New Business**

**Research Council Priorities – Soren Sorensen**

Priorities

* What level of support should ORE provide; types of programs?
* Graduate student funding; recommend providing a stipend to be competitive
  + Chair requested that each RC member provide a slide on your particular field to assist
  + Provide ideas on ‘How to support Grad research?’
* It is requested that Bruce LaMattina present proposed funding changes and how those funds support graduate students

Intellectual Property (IP)

* Do we know how UT compares to others?
* RC requests representatives provide a presentation at a future meeting.

Faculty Senate

* What are the research actions between the system and campus?
* Do we know the incoming President Randy Boyd’s view on research?

**Overview of the UTK Research Organization and Research Budget – Robert Nobles, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research**

Robert Nobles shared there are lots of transitions throughout the campus with the President, Chancellor, etc. It was decided to suspend the search for the VCR and ask Dr. Nobles to be interim to provide stability to the organization.

Budget:

ORE’s base budget is $4.5M in salary and operating budget with an additional mission support of $400K for undergraduate research and compliance. ORE’s Strategic and Transformative Investments in Research (STIR) is $1.75M and Scholarly and Research Incentive Funds (SARIF) which support equipment, humanities, exhibits, performances, publishing, foreign travel, conferences, faculty scholarly research, faculty fellowships, open publishing totals to $904K. ORE also provides $1.3M in annual support to UT’s Joint Institutes with ORNL; see attached for list and $5.4M annual allocation for Science Alliance with an ORNL match. The Science Alliance program currently supports Distinguished Scientists, Joint Directed Research & Development, Graduate Research Assistants, Economic Development and Equipment. ORE’s Start up budget is $5.6M annually with $9.5M obligated in FY19 to provide 50% support of start-up packages provided to new and continuing faculty, $333K of bridge funding, and $1.5M annual allocation to support external funding.

Q: Why not request additional resources every year? A: Resources without strategy does not make sense. It is anticipated that there will be a mid-year review like last year which occurs April/May timeframe.

Q: Future of Joint Institutes and increasing collaboration? A: There is a need for more conversation with ORNL. UT currently provides support to all of them: JICS, JINS, JIAM, JIABS, and JINDA. The FY19 budget with carryover is approximately $2.2M.

Q: Can the Equipment and Infrastructure be more inclusive to Social Sciences? Single PIs do not do well since there is not a high ROI. It requested that something be created that addresses the issue. Also, it was shared that some departments do not understand the call.

Staffing:

ORE has 66 staff members with 5 pending positions to replace a Proposal Coordinator in Sponsor Programs and adding Faculty Fellows in Research Integrity and Portfolio Directors. New hires include a Program Manager with Imagine Tennessee, Program Coordinator for Undergraduate Research Experiences including ORNL Summer Internships and a DOE Portfolio Director in Research Development to liaison with the Department of Energy. (Please see attached presentation for demographics.) There is consideration to add a Graduate Student or Post-Doc to grow with Undergraduate Research. RC recommends a Limited Duration Appointment instead of a Faculty Fellows to back fill the VCR for Research Integrity and Compliance.

It is request the December meeting include updates on budget and staffing levels for the following year and allow the RC members an opportunity to review and make recommendations on funding. It was noted the EPPE program needs additional funding. Dr. LaMattina will present the funding available at the next RC meeting.

Some agencies have removed the cost share requirements which has caused a reduction of cost share expended. It was requested to reevaluate the total amount allocated for cost share.

Top 25 budget includes $261K for Core Facilities with a Fall and Spring call for proposals. ORE is developing a Science Alliance strategy to increase collaboration for early career faculty. Dr. Nobles also shared that ORE is updating the strategic plan to address some of items discussed today.

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

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: November 14, 2018 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.

Zoom Attendance: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/455216603>

**Please notify Paula Brown if attending by Zoom.**