The University of Tennessee

Research Council

Minutes of the Meeting

September 12, 2018

**Attendance:**

**Elected Members present:**

Graciela Cabana, Jay Chen, Yuri Efremenko, Julia Jaekel, Michael Kilbey, Rebecca Koszalinski, Andreas Nebenfuehr, Tore Olsson, Casey Sams, Soren Sorensen (Chair), and Andrew Yu

**Ex-Officio Members present:**

Chris Boake, Bill Dunne, Bruce LaMattina, Robert Muenchen, Robert Nobles, Bill Nugent, Hollie Raynor, David G. White, Tami Wyatt

**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 September 12, 2018. The meeting called to order at 3:41 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of minutes were approved electronically.

**Announcements and Reports**

Committee Assignments – Soren Sorensen *(Presentation Attached)*

Committee assignments and chairs were reviewed. All chair assignments have been confirmed, but not all committee members. Please discuss with Soren if you would like to change your assignment.

**Committees:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Centers and Institutes Review Committee**   * Jiangang (Jay) Chen (Chair) * Juan Jurat-Fuentes * Charles Noble (ex officio) * Julia Jaekel * Michael Kilbey * David Icove * Teri Baxter (ex officio) * David G. White (ex officio) | Two centers up for review:   * Center for Enhancing Education of Mathematics and Science (CEEMS) * Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE)   Deadline for centers: Oct. 24  Deadline for committee: Dec. 5 |
| **Chancellor’s Awards Committee**   * Greg Reynolds (Chair) * Chris Boake (ex officio) * Bill Dunne (ex officio) * Holly Mercer (ex officio) * Stephen Paddison * Rebecca Koszalinski * David Butler | Schedule last year:   * January 31 – provide to RC * January 31 – February 27 – RC to review * February 28 – RC makes recommendations to AVCRD |
| **SARIF Equipment Fund Committee**   * Yuri Efremenko (Chair) * Graciela Cabana * Chris Boake (ex officio) * Bill Dunne (ex officio) * Tore Olsson * Xiaopeng Zhao * Soren Sorensen * Jon Phipps (ex officio) * Holly Raynor (ex officio) | Preliminary schedule:   * Release Sept. 12 * Applicant response Oct. 10 (noon) * The committee will receive the proposals and score sheets by Oct. 17 (preferably sooner) * Review committee will meet November 1st or 2nd (with the option to move into the following week depending on volume and other factors) * ORE will issue final decision by mid-November and notification letters will be sent out before Dec. 1 |
| **SARIF Graduate Research Assistantship Committee**   * Casey Sams (Chair) * Qiang He * Holly Mercer (ex officio) * Andrew Yu * Tami Wyatt (ex officio) | Previous schedule:   * Applications due late February |
| **Representative on the Core Facilities Advisory Committee**   * Andreas Nebenfuehr |  |
| **Representative on the Institutional Compliance Committee**   * Asafa Jalata |  |
| **Representative on Working Group for Human Subjects Research**   * Julia Jaekel |  |

**New Business**

**Role of Research Council**

The Faculty Senate Research Council is comprised of Faculty Senate members, Associate Deans for Research or those you have a research administration role.

Per Webpage:

The Research Council is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate intended to promote and support the research mission of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Our primary goal is to facilitate communication between those doing research, and those who guide, fund, and administer it. We act as an advisory body to the Vice Chancellor for Research and coordinate certain activities with the Office of Research and Engagement—in particular, faculty involvement in several ORE committees and the determination of recipients of various research awards.

Feedback from Research Council (RC) members:

* Bring up issues that others have regarding research
* Advises the Research Council body and Faculty Senate
* Faculty Senate rarely discusses research at their meetings
* RC Committees are the major focus areas for the Council. 95% of recommendations are approved by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Development (AVCRD). This is important awards are decided by their peers to demonstrate fairness and increase trust.
* 28 categories of funding in AVCRD. May need to collapse, administer in more effective way. Diversify between STEM vs soft program but important to include and understand evaluation criteria
* RC requests that if a change in funding structure is under consideration that they be included in the discussion to provide feedback.
* It is important to the RC that award decisions in AVCRD/ORE be done in the open, allows RC involvement. Do not do in a vacuum with ORE.

**This Year’s Focus:** *(See attached for Chair’s list)*

* There are two advisory councils to ORE: Associate Deans for Research (ADRs) and Faculty Senate Research Council (RC). The ADRs **will not** be changing their name to Internal Research Council (IRC).
* Identity Weirdness: System (UTRF) vs. Campus (ORE) vs UTIA
  + Rules on when UTIA can apply for funds
  + Invite Stacey Patterson and new VCR to discuss role differences *(Please note the Vice Chancellor for Research position will not be filled at this time, per Chancellor Davis October 3 email.)*
* UTRF – understand their role, how does it work with the campus?
* UTK/ORNL Relationship
  + Science Alliance program; JDRD not meeting program goals as set and should consider reviewing past projects
* Core Facilities
  + Is self-sufficiency the goal? Is it leveraging resources? Is it to be used as promotion of the University? Which one is more important? Is this comparable to other comparable and aspirational institutions?
* Budget – Allocation of funds
* Intellectual property (IP) right policies – (UTRF manages IP for the System)
* IRB for Human Subjects – long processing times.
  + Recent training and process updates may have resolved length of time for approval
* Difficulty is setting up contracts
* Graduate Student Support/Post-Doc
* ‘Academic Harassment’ – protection for faculty: currently no statement in the policy on consequences for mis-use of the fraud process.
* The RC review of centers that belong to colleges per their request. However, they do not currently review the Joint Institutes and other centers reporting to the VCR.
* Off cycle request from individual faculty – ‘individual favors’ in defiance of Deans/Department Heads. ORE wants to ensure fairness and equity in the funding process to continue building trust with faculty members.
  + For example, the RC would review requests for New Centers that report to the VCR - Joint Institutes. RC would recommend funding or disbanding.
* F&A to be a more open process: 60% (UT) 40% (College). Discussion regarding waiving F&A commitments and allowing transparency where the F&A funds are spent.
  + Add for VCR
* Meet with VCR candidates separately with RC members.
  + RC members are on the selection committee
  + When offered to meet separately with the RC, the RC members did not attend.
  + Please questions to Soren for the VCR Candidates
* Move the re-organization of funds to the top of the list
* Understand the process a proposal – Cradle to Grave

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: October 10, 2018 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.

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

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