The University of Tennessee

Research Council

Minutes of the Meeting

March 13, 2019

**Attendance:**

**Elected Members present:**

David Butler, Jay Chen, Yuri Efremenko, Julia Jaekel, Michael Kilbey, Rebecca Koszalinski, Tore Olsson, Stephen Paddison, Greg Reynolds, Casey Sams, and Soren Sorensen (Chair)

**Ex-Officio Members present:**

Teri Baxter, Chris Boake, Bill Dunne, Kimberly Eck Bruce LaMattina, Holly Mercer, Bob Muenchen, Larry McKay, Charlie Noble, Bill Nugent, Courtney Holbert (Raynor), Carol Tenopir, David White and Tami Wyatt

**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 March 13, 2019. The meeting called to order at 3:33 pm.

**Committee Updates**

Chancellor Awards – Greg Reynolds, Committee Chair

**Professional Promise in Research & Creative Achievement Award – 4 Awards**

* 19 nominations:
	+ 10 from Arts & Sciences
	+ 6 from Engineering
	+ 2 from Nursing
	+ 1 from Business

**Research & Creative Achievement Award – 4 Awards**

* 5 nominations:
	+ 3 from Arts & Sciences
	+ 2 from Engineering

**Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award – 1 Award**

* 4 nominations:
	+ Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, & Agriculture
	+ Engineering & Business
	+ Art, Engineering, & Nursing
	+ Education (Health & Human Sciences), Arts & Sciences (Psych)

**Issues and Recommendations**

* Rating nominees from diverse disciplines
	+ Products/publication rates/funding records vary greatly
	+ Nomination letters critically important
	+ Committee discussion & Ex Officio members very helpful

**Issues and Recommendations – ‘cont.**

* Nomination packet issues
	+ Some were incomplete or ineligible
	+ Committee provided recommendations to Kimberly Eck on eligibility requirements and nomination instructions for next year
* Uneven spread of nominations across colleges and departments
	+ Departments with awards committees actively submit nominations each year
	+ How can other departments be encouraged to actively nominate faculty for awards?

Summer GRA - Casey Sams, Chair

28 Applications were received and announcements will occur the first of April.

**New Business**

Vision for Communication at UT with emphasis on Research – Tisha Benton, Vice Chancellor for Communication

Chancellor Benton has been with UT for 3 months and has spent several week talking to UT leadership, faculty and staff. It is clear lots of great work and stories about great people are there tell. One challenge is the decentralization of communication in colleges and departments. There are no plans to change the organization structure, instead there is an opportunity to leverage the organization structure to serve specific department needs. Role clarification is needed to ensure the structure allows the Communications structure to be agile. Things cannot stop due to the crisis of the day. One theme heard these last few weeks in regards to research is ‘National Pitching ‘ and Communications is dedicating resources to support. While meeting with the new Knoxville New Sentential editor, Vice Chancellor Benton and Chancellor Davis shared how UT’s research is changing lives across the nation and these stories need to be told outside of UT. The editor has interest in UT news but he said that the stories should be relevant to their readers at the level they can understand and their impact on their lives.

Communications will continue strategic planning to prioritize work. The process will include understanding each college’s resources to create a communication strategy that allows the group to get ahead of the news cycle instead of being reactive, be proactive. One example was FIRST GEN. The program for first generation college graduates started at the grass roots level offering t-shirts and pens to wear on a specific day. It started small but by working with Communications, a larger audience was reached. Communications is also working toward campus and system coordinated communications to avoid receiving multiple emails from multiple sources.

Q: How are you highlighting research areas? A: One example is Advance Materials that is an important research area. Communications is putting resources to tell the story and push out to a broader audience.

Q: Do you have an experts list? A: Yes, it is growing and will share with Deans and Department Heads. Suggestion to encourage faculty to self-identify as an expert.

Q: Thank you for coming today. I hoped you would have provided in your presentation a clearer strategy on how to promote research. A: Still early in evaluating the current state. Currently, balancing ramping up tactics while putting together a strategy. Waiting for summer and will evaluate the capacity of those who need to be involved. The Communication Council will migrate more consistent meetings to help with the college’s goals with clearer understanding how Communications support those goals. What are their priorities and they will have direct access to the National Pitch staff.

Q: Will you get more resources? A: Yes and no. Money is dedicated for system upgrades which is one-time dollars. There is no anticipation that additional people will be added especially since there are still a few vacancies to fill. In evaluating resource levels Communications will work with what they have while trying to understand what they need to be for UT.

Q: How will Communications move beyond releasing a press release with no follow up? A: Previously a press release was released and Communications moved on. Now, they will reallocate resources to focus on the National Pitch. Please understand that if resources are moved to support new areas, some things may not be supported by them but within the department and college.

Q: I am from UTIA. How do they work with you? A: UTIA has their own communications group. UT System communications works with each campus communication group to coordinate stories, articles across the system.

S: Communications across UT is to translate to general audiences; that is the key part of the job.

Revision of Common Rules for Human Subjects in Federal Research – Colleen Gilraine

* HRPP Special Edition newsletters were sent out in fall semester describing upcoming revisions
* Captioned video is available covering the changes at <http://dmsmediasite.utk.edu/UTK/Play/c0ff9f5246a34f369be573424e69e3b61d>, four workshops were held in January (covering same material) for those who wanted to discuss in person
* IRB Chair visited the units most impacted by new review categories in December (study day) to discuss changes
* Revised iMedRIS application was available January 14
* HRPP Staff (Director/IRB Compliance Officer Kristine Hershberger, Assistant IRB Compliance Officers Tammy Loy and Jennifer Engle) worked through Sunday night 1/20/2019 to make sure as few applications as possible got "stuck in transition."
* Revised regulations implemented January 21, 2019.
* IRB receives on average 350 submissions a month.

S: Thank you for making it easier for our faculty by not keeping up with two sets of regulations.

S: UT spent the extra year getting ready to transition all to the new regulations.

Research Development Topics – Kimberly Eck

**Center Review Process.** Our [college-level centers](https://research.utk.edu/centers/) are reviewed by Research Council unless the Dean or ADR requested that the center not be reviewed by Research Council. Naturally, the review process focuses on the research and scholarship aspects of the centers. This process works well for centers that are research-centric. However, for centers that focus more on service or teaching, the review is not comprehensive and may inadvertently undervalue important contributions. To complement the Research Council reviews, some colleges supplement the review of centers but others do not. I’d like to explore alternative ways to review centers that would be more comprehensive. I also would like to consider how Research Council can provide a review for centers that report to ORE that are not currently reviewed by RC.

* Research Council subcommittee focuses on the center’s research activities and it has caused some confusion and conflict when centers have little research activities and more a service center. Many of the reports do not provide comprehensive information on research which is RC’s responsibility.
* TCE – all college level center directors report to the ADR monthly and the ADR writes a yearly review.
* CAS – the Dean is briefed yearly by the center directors and some of those center do not need external funding. Recommend a formal way to review the joint centers which is very important.
* It is healthy for the faculty to be involved in the review since it is input from their peers. Should centers be reviewed? Should more people be involved?
* The Research Council is designed to be broad with many disciplines. Why is this not the correct group to review the centers?
* More transparency and adding more members to the committee is needed. More transparency on funding and a standard format questionnaire for the center to answer.
* Are we (RC) just perpetuating a process that is no longer needed? Is the Research Council not responsible to provide input to help ORE?
* As an individual who received a center review, the feedback was greatly appreciated. The application process is disconnected and more definition/structure is needed in the application.
* If Centers receive funds from ORE, they should be under ORE’s prevue and reviewed.
* Provide how the review process is triggered.
* Q: How does a Community of Scholars move to a center; how are centers created.
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Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: April 10, 2019 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.