

The University of Tennessee  
Research Council  
Minutes of the Meeting  
September 11, 2019

**Elected Members present:**

Graciela Cabana, Sherry Cox, Qiang He, David Icove, Julia Jaekel, Michael Kilbey, Andreas Nebenfuehr, Tore Olsson, Stephen Paddison, Sean Schaeffer, Zach Sims, Soren Sorensen, and Andrew Yu

**Ex-Officio Members present:**

Suzie, Allard, Ernest Brothers, Michael Higdon, Bill Dunne, Kimberly Eck, Larry McKay, Holly Mercer, Robert Muenchen, Robert Nobles, Bill Nugent, and Tami Wyatt

**ORE Members present:**

Donna Cochran, Bruce LaMattina, and Jean Mercer

**Call to order:**

Michael Kilbey called the meeting to order. A regular meeting of the Research Council was held at Blount Hall room A004 on September 11, 2019. The meeting called to order at 3:32 pm.

**Introduction:**

**Research Council Goals**

- Understand and participate in shared governance related to the development of the Oak Ridge Institute and the UTK/UTIA unification
- Develop a clearer view of how research is defined outside of STEM disciplines and how productivity is evaluated and rewarded
- Assess and evaluate best practices related to retention and career progression of research staff and its impact on facilities that form infrastructure
- Develop insight into Office of Research and Engagement strategic planning cycles and identify pathways for engagement.

Robert Nobles shared ORE and the Research Council have a great relationship and partnership. This is a forum to hear the needs and concerns from the faculty.

Member introductions occurred. Two graduate students from the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) will serve. Zach Sims is one GSS member and another one should be appointed. Please encourage graduate students to serve on the GSS since there are 40 of the 90 slots filled.

Meeting minutes will be sent electronically for approval prior to the next meeting. Faculty Senate members are the voting members and should reply with their approval. All members should review and provide updates or changes as needed.

**Committee Updates**

Kilbey presented a proposed list of assignments for liaison roles and committee duties. Chair roles have been confirmed, but RC members should contact Kilbey if they have reservations about their committee assignments. After that input is received, a refined list will be generated and sent to RC members for approval. Robert Nobles proposed the possibility of Research Council members be on the ORE Research Awards selection committee.

## Invited Speakers

Oak Ridge Institute      David Manderscheid, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor  
(Presentation Attached)      Stacey Patterson, UT Vice President for Research, Outreach, and Economic Development  
Robert Nobles, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement

UT Board of Trustees in March 2019 challenged the administration to come up with ideas to grow the UT research enterprise from ~\$400M to \$600 or \$800M in the next five years! The Oak Ridge Institute (ORI) will help to meet this challenge by identifying opportunities and eliminating barriers to success, diversify funding sources, recruit faculty in growth areas, and leverage and enlarge our unique partnership with ORNL.

The Oak Ridge (ORNL) partnership is a very important distinction for the University of Tennessee. Other universities make campus visits to UT/ORNL to find out how to replicate this partnership and the critically important work that occurs. However, unlike ORNL, UT is measured by TREs and how UT compares to our peers is important. The ORI could make the next 10 years be the best in the University's 225 years. *See attached presentation for specific data.*

Following the presentation, there was dialog with the RC around various elements of the ORI.

The Chair recommended the speakers return after the presentation to the Board of Trustees in November.

**Adjournment:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

**Minutes submitted by:** Paula Brown

**Next Meeting:** May 9, 2019 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.