The University of Tennessee

Faculty Senate Research Council

Minutes of the Meeting

February 12, 2020

**Elected Members present:**

Chris Boyer, Sherry Cox, Qiang He, Kate Higgins, David Icove, Julia Jaekel, Michael Kilbey, Sean Schaeffer, Zach Sims, Soren Sorensen, and Andrew Yu.

**Ex-Officio Members present:**

Suzie, Allard, Bill Dunne, Kimberly Eck, Larry McKay, Matthew Mench, Holly Mercer, Marisa Moazen, Josh Price, and Tami Wyatt

**ORE Members present:**

Jean Mercer and Marisa Moazen

**Call to order:**

A regular meeting of the Research Council was held at Blount Hall room A004 on January 8 2019. Michael Kilbey called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

**Announcements and Reports**

**Summer GRA Fund Update**

* Committee is on schedule. Proposals due February 26.

**Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes were approved online by email.

**Old Business -Presentation**

* None

**New Business**

**Presentation and discussion of UTIA research and UTK/UTIA re-unification - Kimberly Eck**

The Research Working Group, co-chaired by Kimberly Eck and David White, generated a long list ideas, many of which are interrelated. When ideas were organized they realized that the majority of the concepts discussed were in support of three key recommendations. These three recommendations are also connected to each other and are each equally important to reunifying the UTK-UTIA research enterprise.  *[Recommendations are in draft and not yet submitted to the Chancellor]*

**Charge 1**: To identify the top 5 opportunities or ideas relating to enhancing research collaboration between UTIA and UTK faculty and to recommend specific changes that need to occur to take advantage of those opportunities or ideas.

* **Recommendation 1:** Create and support faculty-driven transdisciplinary initiatives that bring multiple academic units across UTIA and UTK together to tackle grand challenges.
* **Recommendation 2:** Increase support for graduate students in fields that span UTK and UTIA with a focus on improving the graduate student experience and reducing administrative barriers.
* **Recommendation 3:** Strengthen and expand the infrastructure needed to promote collaborations between UTIA/UTK faculty members and across disciplines.

**Charge 2**: To identify ways and specific changes that need to occur for UTIA and UTK to work together more seamlessly in research development, research administration, research compliance, and faculty research support.

* **Recommendation 4:** Provide equitable support to all faculty pursuing external funding during the pre-award process, which should be seamless. Support may best be provided through the local unit or through centralized units depending on existing resources, expertise, current workload, and demand.
* **Recommendation 5**: Improve systems and processes to make them more efficient, reduce the administrative burden on faculty, and deliver a consistent message to our internal and external partners.
* **Recommendation 6**: Enable all faculty to access research development support infrastructure.
* **Recommendation 7**: Increase the visibility of faculty research, grants/awards, and professional success among internal and external audiences through enhanced science communications (joint with Communications committee).
* **Recommendation 8**: Coordinate research integrity and laboratory safety activities across UTIA and UTK to ensure consistency.

**Presentation and discussion – Matthew Mench**

Matthew Mench discussed several updates:

* Computing Resources: The ACF is located in OIT. There are five new positions dedicated to resource computing. Recommends Chris Cimino and Joel Reeves provide an update the committee in the future.
* Interim Role of VCR: Part of the role is to take an assessment of and advocate for ORE especially during the transition to the new budget model. Observations thus far is that the VCR position being in the Chancellor’s cabinet is critical. The future of ORE is strategic and involved in campus research.
* Joint Institutes will be reviewed as a part of the Oak Ridge Institute development.
* The state of ORE in relation to campus infrastructure is to ensure the right resources are available, find areas to grow, what is holding us back, and what are the opportunities?
  + RC Statement: Some buildings make it difficult to install equipment and impacts research agenda.
* Core Facilities is also valuable by replacement of central critical equipment as well as new, innovative research equipment.
* The Research Council will have the opportunity to review the assessment report before submitting to the Chancellor.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:17 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: March 11, 2020 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.