

The University of Tennessee
Faculty Senate Research Council
Minutes of the Meeting
January 13, 2021

Elected Members present:

Dallas Donohoe, Yanfei Gao, Qiang He, David Icove, Julia Jaekel (Chair), Xueping Li, Brian Long, Vasileios Maroulas, Tore Olsson, and Alisa Schoenbach

Ex-Officio Members present:

Suzie Allard, David Anderson, Ernest Brothers, Doug Coatsworth, Deborah Crawford, Bill Dunne, Victor Hazlewood, Michael Kilbey, Jamie McGowan, Larry McKay, Holly Mercer, Charles Noble, Josh Price, Joel Reeves, Jennifer Webster, David White, and Tami Wyatt

ORE Members present:

Erin Chapin, Marc Gibson, Bruce LaMattina, Jean Mercer, Jon Phipps, Sarah Pruett, and Renee Thomas

Minutes: December minutes approved electronically

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Research Council was held via Zoom and Julia Jaekel called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Welcome - Julia Jaekel, Chair

Committee Updates:

- Chancellor Awards committee waiting on applications; deadline for submission is January 22.
- Summer GRA committee will review 24 applications on January 20 to review ratings and scores.
- Equipment and Infrastructure committee will meet January 14 to review 18 applications.

New Business

UT's designation as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) - Suzie Allard, Marc Gibson, Lindsay Hammill, Bruce LaMattina, and David White

For the last two and half years the team participated in the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) process to receive a designation for the University. David White and Suzie Allard were co leads working with Bruce LaMattina. Alexis Anderson was the project manager. UT pursued this designation to learn about ourselves with a fresh approach to finding, organizing and communicating our campus programs and research that support economic and community development. This process helped to understand the University's strengths and weaknesses. The process and designation provides validation from a trusted and revered president-led association that UT's programs and partnerships were fueling innovation and driving economic prosperity. The designation add to our 'toolbox' to quickly and effectively tell UT's story of investing in innovation and strategies that support student success and uplift the region. Three universities were selected from this year's co-hort of 17: University of Tennessee, University of Utah, and University of Texas at El Paso. There are 68 universities with this designation.

The process has three main areas. (1) Self-Study is conducted with surveys, focus groups and meetings with internal and external stakeholders in the ecosystem. (2) An inventory of accomplishments to understand what has been done in the space of innovation and economic development. (3) A growth and improvement plan was created from the data gathered.

Survey and focus groups cover the following categories: Economic Engagement, Culture, Benefit to Public, Innovation, Educational Programs, Openness Accessibility and Responsiveness. The internal audience consisted of 1586 faculty members and 95 extension agents with 261 individuals responding to the survey resulting in a 15.5% response rate. The external audience surveyed 567 individuals with 88 participating; 15.5% response rate. Focus groups included community and non-profit leaders, campus, East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC), and UTIA.

Using the data collected, a gap analysis between Importance and Performance helped to create the focus areas for improvement and document our excellence. Three areas were identified for growth and improvement:

1. **Focus on the Land Grant Mission; Access & Integration**
 - ✓ UTIA/UTK Unification
 - Expand Extension mission beyond Agriculture
 - Grow Enrollment Programs like Bridge and TN Promise
2. **Innovation Through Research**
 - Fulfill the vision for the Oak Ridge Institute
 - Continue Development at Cherokee Farm
 - Grow Applied Research – Diversify Research Areas
 - Continue to address Grand Challenges
3. **Elevate Innovation and Corporate Engagement as a Priority**
 - Create a landing page to serve as a hub for economic engagement resources
 - Streamline IP & Contracting Process
 - ✓ Consider adding Economic Development to VC for Research role
 - Identify and communicate experts and points of contact
 - Continue to grow Entrepreneurship and Incubator space

Next Steps

- Convene internal and external stakeholders
- Identify goals and desirable outcomes
- Build an implementation strategy & operationalize
- Ingrain Innovation and Economic Prosperity into the culture of the University

Early IEP victories include the establishment of the Division of Partnerships & Economic Development under the leadership of Marc Gibson; Lindsay Hammill, Director of Economic Development; and Jamie Blessinger, Events & Operations Coordinator. There will be potentially two positions that will oversee this APLU designation, work with Javiette Samuel's office and manage the Carnegie Designation.

APLU defines economic development as a proactive institutional engagement to create conditions for economic prosperity: jobs, capital investment and workforce diversity. As a land grant university, we are to make sure that's happening in our state and our region. The University's reputation for quality and work is highly regarded and that is demonstrated by the recent ranking by Business Facilities magazine as the number one state for business climate in

the US. Couple this ranking with the University's economic impact and the APLU IEP designation makes UT a lead convener of idea generation and direct impact on recruiting industry, helping entrepreneurship, and recruiting high paying jobs the 188 acres of the University of Tennessee Research Park at Cherokee Farms.

An Economic Development Council includes both internal and external stakeholders combine strategic plans for the next five years where the UT System, their Office of Research and the new department Division of Partnerships & Economic Development overlap and develop focus and targeted areas in advanced materials and manufacturing, automotive, aerospace, 3D printing and composites, medical equipment, and energy technology like the Smart Grid electrification.

A part of the communications plan includes a website for faculty and student support services as well as a portal for the community to get information to help them apply for grants and be competitive for those grants. The focus is on the existing industry and also how to support bringing new business here that aligns with our strategic priorities and how do we bring the best jobs to the business park.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: February 10, 2021