

# Research Council Annual Report

2011-2012

**Leadership & Membership** The Research Council (RC) consisted of the chair (L.D. Han) with co-participation by the Interim Vice Chancellor (VC) of Research (W. Hines/L. Riedinger) and Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) of Research (G. Reed).

In addition, the membership of the RC included Faculty Senators (I. Arel, D. Birdwell, J. Conant, M. Gray, M. Griffin, J. Hall, T. Handler, F. Harte, R. Jones, Y. Kamyshkov, K. Newkirk, S. Paddison, C. Shepardson, S. Yen) and Graduate Student Senators (K. Brannen, M. Raeeszadeh, A. Skelton, A. Thompson, N. Vorbrich). Ex officio members included C. Boake (Arts & Science), J. Deeken (Library), B. Dunne (Engineering), T. Ladd (Business), B. Muenchen (IT), and K. Phillips (Nursing).

**Committees** The RC operates and fulfills its various responsibilities through a number of standing and ad hoc committees. For the reporting period, the following were the committees and their membership.

- *Centers Review Committee*: Boake, Griffin\*, Handler, Muenchen, Raeeszadeh, and Shepardson
- *Chancellor's Awards*: Conant, Deeken, Dunne, Handler\*, Newkirk, and Yen
- *SARIF Equipment & Infrastructure*: Birdwell, Boake, Dunne\*, and Griffin
- *SARIF EPPE*: Deeken, Hall, Kamyshkov, Phillips, and Yen
- *SARIF GRA*: Conant, Kamyshkov\*, Newkirk, Vorbrich, and Yen
- *ORU Budget Review*: Paddison\* and all RC members
- *Bylaws (ad hoc)*: Conant, Hall\*, Han, and Yen
- *Research Center/Lab Web Template (ad hoc)*: Birdwell, Han, and Hines\*

**Activities** The full Council convened on the second Wednesday of each month with additional committee meetings and activities taking place throughout the report period. The following are RC activities in a roughly chronological order, where applicable.

- The RC meetings typically followed the order of the opening remarks by the chair, remarks by VC of Research and AVC of Research, approval of minutes from the previous meeting(s), old business, new business, and items from the floor. The agendas were typically distributed electronically one week before the meeting while the minutes (draft) were typically posted online for comments and review a couple of weeks after the meetings. Minutes from the reporting period are now posted at <http://web.utk.edu/~senate/rc/minutes/>
- A significant amount of time of the earlier RC meetings focused on the role and

vision for research as a part of UT's Top 25 initiative. Through VC of Research and AVC of Research's reports on Office of Research (OR) activities and the subsequent Q & A as well as comments from RC members, the Council was afforded a close-look at the existing and potential issues of research at UTK and provided input to potentially effect positive changes directly.

- At RC's first meeting, all members were asked to sign up for various committee assignments. Committee membership and chairpersonships were decided and appointed based members' past experience and expressed interest. Very limited adjustments were made later on when the needs arose. In general, all committees carried out their assigned tasks in a diligent and efficient manner.
- Based on the suggestion of AVC of Research (Reed), the Chair (Han) formed an ad hoc committee to look into the need for revising the Faculty Senate Bylaws Article III, Section 2.J on Research Council. Specifically, the titles of chief research officer on campus should be revised to reflect changes in the recent past. Issues related to membership and the election of chairperson should also be looked at closely.

The Bylaws committee, chaired by J. Hall who also chaired RC several years ago, took on the challenge of revising the two-paragraph section to replace obsolete leadership titles, provide consistent wording in the language and descriptions, maintain flexibility to how RC functions, and reflect the vision of RC members. The committee went through a collaborative and iterative process and presented the first draft to the RC on February 1, 2012.

After being presented to RC as a motion from the committee by Hall, the first draft received a lengthy discussion on various aspects of the recommended revisions. Issues related to non-faculty senator membership and term limit were at the center of the discussion. In the interest of time and the need for more deliberation on the matter, the draft was sent back to the committee for further work. B. Dunne and D. Birdwell were subsequently added to the working group that is the ad hoc committee so that their perspectives and experiences on RC could be included.

A series of phone calls and email exchanges transpired in the ensuing weeks among key members of the ad hoc committee and the Chair of RC. A second draft was completed and presented to the RC on March 13, 2012. With only very minor wording changes, the motion carried unanimously at the monthly meeting.

The revised and approved draft was subsequently written into a resolution by the Chair of RC and submitted as a motion to the Executive Council. On April 23, 2012 the resolution to revise FS Bylaws III, 2, J passed unanimously with the

change of one word. The resolution now heads to the full Senate for approval

- Lee Riedinger replaced Wes Hines to become the new Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.
- The Council invited David Washburn, VP of University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF), to talk about the vision and changes in the near future at UTRF to help encourage and facilitate faculty members with patenting and licensing their inventions. Washburn talked about UTRF projects related to technology transfer, Genera, Solar, and real estate. He presented the trends and statistics before his arrival at UT and the UTRF goals for 2013. UTRF planned to increase its current licensing associate from one person to four by the end of June 2012. UTRF planned to invest in the form of Maturation Grants, Angel, Speed, and Venture Capitals in the future. In terms of facilities, UTRF saw opportunities with the Incubator on the Ag Campus and the Cherokee Farms. Washburn also talked about America Invents Act to be effective in March 2013.
- The Centers Review Committee reviewed three centers in Fall 2011. The committee made thorough and thoughtful decisions on these centers and the results were submitted to and accepted by AVC of Research Reed with commendation.
- The SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Committee reviewed 13 major proposals (over \$5,000) and 8 minor proposals (less than \$5,000). The committee recommended the funding of 8 major proposals and all minor proposals. The committee also suggested the disaffiliation of infrastructural proposals for less than \$5,000.
- Bob Muenchen, an ex officio member of RC representing OIT, briefed the Council on the upgrade of analysis.utk.edu and research software online. The new hardware will have ten times more power with no added costs to students.
- ORU Budget Hearings were held on March 5 and 6, 2012. To assist OR with this effort, S. Paddison coordinated RC members to make sure every session was attended by two, three RC members. As an improvement item for the next year (2013), more attention will be paid to the collection of filled out evaluation/feedback forms. The ORU hearings conflicted with the Faculty Senate meeting on March 5, 2012. This could be a consideration for scheduling the hearings next year.
- At the RC's September meeting, the Chair suggested inviting the key persons on UT's Institutional Review Board (IRB) to present to the Council about the importance of human subject research compliance issues and OR's initiative of requiring certifications of all researchers involved in human subject research.

On March 14, 2012 Glenn Graber and Brenda Lawson were invited to the monthly RC meeting. Graber, Chair of UT IRB, was a professor of Philosophy and Medicine. He has been teaching since 1968, directed some 30 doctoral dissertations, 6 books, and 50+ papers, many on the theory and practice of ethics in terms of medical, bio, religion, healthcare, etc. Lawson, UT IRB Administrator, is the Compliance Officer of animal care, biosafety, export control, human subject, radiation safety, and responsible conduct matters at OR. Graber spoke on human subject research topics including Code of Federal Regulations, definition human subject, IRB, elements of informed consent, types of reviews, ANPRM for revisions to Common Rules, etc.

Since OR implemented the requirement for certification, via CITI externally or UT's Blackboard, as of April 15, 2012, this was a very timely visit.

- Chancellor's Award Committee reviewed and selected winners for the year in March 2012. One nomination was disqualified due to the department head not following the guidelines; a similar situation also occurred the year before. The committee suggested that the application requirement of "one copy of one or two major works" be deleted. The committee also recommends that information concerning whether the nominee is the principal investigator (PI) be required with the list of grants and contracts. It was reported that the practice of posting nomination materials on UT's Blackboard site worked very well for the committee.
- The ad hoc committee on Research Centers/Lab Web Design reported that they had received and reviewed the proposed template from OIT. Wes Hines, who was the Interim VC of Research previously, continued to lead this effort.
- Three more centers were scheduled for review for Spring 2012. The Centers Review Committee had reviewed a total of five centers this academic year with one more to completed. The committee recommended revising the guideline to limit the report length/page count and to focus more on the synergistic nature of the research activities because of the Center as opposed to the sum of activities of individual faculty researchers. Griffin, Chair of the committee, suggested that a memorandum be compiled to help future chairs because of the steep learning curve the committee faces every year. This committee typically had the heaviest workload with cases coming in almost year-round. AVC of Research Reed complimented the committee on a very thorough and effective job they had done to justify their recommendations.
- Several RC members voiced the need for a better representation of UTK in Washington, DC to "lobby" for UTK, UTSI, and UTIA. Since the retirement of Lillian Mashburn, the campus had not had a designated Federal Relationship

person, even though Kurt Schlieter had served as the liaison for the UT System. Tom Handler visited with Tennessee legislators in Washington, DC and reported that in general, the congressmen recognize the importance of the University of Tennessee's research and innovation creativity. They also recognize the indefinable impact when dollars are spent. The congressmen in Washington would like to know where the dollars are spent to benefit more students and to effect economic impacts they can point to.

**Election** J. Deeken nominated L.D. Han for chairpersonship for the next year. He was elected unanimously.

**Unfinished Business** Three items were continuing at the time this report was prepared. All these could be wrapped up by summer 2012.

- The RC Centers Review Committee is to finish their review on one more center that came in late.
- The RC Centers Review Committee is to compile a memorandum to prepare future chairs and members for the tasks assigned to the committee.
- The resolution on FS Bylaws III, 2, J is to be presented to and voted on at the general assembly on May 7, 2012.

**Submitted** by L.D. Han (*lhan@utk.edu*) on May 3, 2012.