

System Relations Committee Meeting
Wednesday November 2, 2011, University Center Room 218, 3:30-5:00PM

MINUTES:

Members: Beauvais Lyons, Chair, Toby Boulet (UT Board of Trustees), Guoxun Chen, Lloyd Davis (new UTSI member), Hillary Fouts, Greg Petty, Tricia Hepner, Susan Speraw, Svetlana Zivanovic.

Members Absent: Doug Blaze, David Patterson (UTFC Representative), Sam Swan.

Guest: David Millhorn, Vice-President for Research

1. **Introductions:** Members of the Committee introduced themselves to each other and David Millhorn and discussed their research activities to provide a context for the discussions.
2. **Approval of the minutes from Wednesday September 21, 2011** (approved with no revisions)
3. **Discussions with David Millhorn,** Millhorn introduced himself and his academic background at UNC Chapel Hill and later the University of Cincinnati as a department head. During that time he had a number of links to ORNL and was recruited to the UT system in 2005.

Beauvais Lyons asked about system level research initiatives in the context of the system strategic plan. David Millhorn talked about system efforts to build partnerships between research groups, and cited a number of examples. Svetlana Zivanovic asked about UT Battelle and how state funds are divided between UT and ORNL. She also asked about core facility needs. Millhorn indicated that system-level resources are modest, and that the emphasis is on advancing campus-based research activities.

Toby Boulet asked about research expenditures – and if the system keeps track of units, as well as overall grant funding. David Millhorn said that they have just purchased TERA (Tennessee Electronic Research Accounting), an accounting system to assist in this effort.

Lloyd Davis asked about access to journals with a single contract across the system in support of research. Millhorn said that they have been trying to do this for several years, and Ohio and Georgia were offered as examples. He agreed this is an ongoing issue.

Beauvais Lyons asked about plans to deal with potential contraction in federal grant funding. David Millhorn said that in the case of UT Battelle many of the grants are funded separately and thus are more insulated from significant cutbacks. He admitted that we are in an era when it will be more and more difficult to secure federal funds – and thus Cherokee Farm will play a critical role in attracting privately funded research initiatives. He said the enterprise has risks involved, but was intended to broaden our research funding enterprise to include more private

sources. Toby Boulet asked about the connections of Cherokee Farm to the academic programs of UTK. David Millhorn said that our students will be able to work in their labs, and that they will hire our graduates. A plan for funding the buildings with rental arrangements was briefly discussed. Svetlana Zivanovic asked what control the university will have over what kinds of entities will be potential partners. David Millhorn said these ideally would most likely be in the fields of health care, energy, and the environment.

Susan Speraw asked where the humanities and social sciences fit into the system research mission. David Millhorn said from the system level they do not strive to micromanage campus level priorities. He admitted that the emphasis at the system level has been on STEM disciplines. He did cite the Norris House and the Living Light Project in Architecture as examples where he has helped to support other kinds of initiatives.

Beauvais Lyons asked about the relationship between Millhorn's office and the campus level vice-chancellor's for research. Millhorn said that UTK and ORNL are the main research engines within the system, and he has worked closely with their campus research leadership.

Svetlana Zivanovic raised the issue of international students and the assessment of out-of-state tuition levels for students coming on grants from their country of origin, but who do not have at least a 25% assistantship. Millhorn agreed this is an issue and said the Board of Trustees and the campus graduate programs should look at this issue.

Millhorn said in the future he hopes the committee chair will forward a set of issues and concerns in advance of the meeting.

4. **Future Meetings:** are scheduled for Wednesday January 18, 2012 (with Hank Dye). The meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 29, 2012 conflicts with the Board of Trustees Meeting to take place in Memphis, and so will be moved to Monday February 27, 2012 (General Counsel's Office).
5. **Adjournment at 4:45pm.**