

Research Council Annual Report 2014-2015

Membership:

Chair: C. Shepardson

Senators: B. Auerbach, M. Cooper, I. Down, A. Freire, I. Hanning-Jarquin, S. Hutson, R. Kalyanaraman, R. Klenk, A. Odoi, C. Parigger, D. Steadman, M. Van Riemsdijk, K. Yeager

Ex officio: S. Allard, C. Boake, B. Dunne, T. Eighmy, J. Hall, M. McEntee, H. Mercer, R. Muenchen, L. Mullikin, J. Nelson, S. Oliver, K. Phillips, A. Ranft, C. Shepardson, G. Stein, D. Thompson

Staff: Jane Taylor

Graduate Students: N. Meek, J. Onley, A. Rhinehart

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:	K. Yeager (chair), M. Cooper, I. Hanning-Jarquin, R. Kalyanaraman, R. Klenk, R. Muenchen, C. Parigger, D. Steadman
SARIF Equipment:	B. Dunne (chair), C. Boake, I. Hanning-Jarquin, R. Kalyanaraman, M. Van Riemsdijk
SARIF EPPE:	ORE did not call upon this committee this year.
SARIF GRA:	I. Down (chair), C. Boake, S. Hutson, A. Odoi, C. Shepardson
Chancellor's Awards:	B. Auerbach (chair), C. Boake, I. Down, B. Dunne, S. Hutson, A. Odoi, C. Shepardson

In addition, people served on other committees as representatives of the Research Council:

- R. Muenchen on the Core Facilities Advisory Committee
- D. Steadman on the UTK Institutional Compliance Committee
- R. Muenchen on the Core Facilities Director Search Committee
- M. Cooper on the IRB Compliance Officer Search Committee
- C. Shepardson on the Faculty Development Team Director Search Committee

Activities:

The RC convened 8 times in addition to the initial break-out session at the Senate retreat, with additional committee meetings and activities taking place throughout the reporting period. Some of the Chair's priorities this year were to keep the RC as interdisciplinary as possible and to increase attendance rates among senators.

The Chair kept the RC website updated with the help of Jane Taylor and Craig Cook.

RC meetings typically followed the order of opening remarks by the Chair, approval of minutes from the previous meeting(s), old business, new business, and items from the floor. The agenda was 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 this year focused on addressing faculty concerns regarding the IRB process at UTK, in addition to complaints about iMedris. The Chair remained in conversation with Joanne Hall, Candace White, Robert Nobles, and the Senate, and attended meetings on the topic during the year. R. Nobles arranged for an all-day workshop by PRIMR on April 27. There are some early indications, however, that faculty concerns on these issues remain ongoing.

The Chair spent most of the year overseeing the final approval and posting of last year's Bylaws changes for the Council through the Senate.

The Council submitted a resolution to the Senate in favor of a new undergraduate research fee. The Chair continued to oversee the progress of this effort as it travelled around the University.

The Council welcomed Janet Nelson, the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Marisa Moazen, the new Undergraduate Research Director; Sonya Sullivan, the new Compliance Officer; and Erin Chapin, the new Communications Coordinator at ORE.

At the Council's first meeting, all members were asked to sign up for committee assignments. Committee membership and chairpersonships were decided and appointed based on members' past experience, expressed interest, and research area (in order to insure that each committee had members from diverse fields).

The Council hosted the following guest speakers, whose presentations helped keep Council members informed about research activities across the university: Mitch Goldman, Mark Dean, Chris Eaker, John Zomchick, Taylor Eighmy, Janet Nelson, Chris Boake, Sally Morris, and Marisa Moazen. In addition to the topics noted above (IRB; undergraduate research fee), these discussions focused on questions around qualitative data collection and sharing; research relations between UTK and the College of Medicine; industry-funded research at UTK; an update on UT's total research expenditures, Top 25, System Strategic Plan, and System Budget; building construction on campus; foundation funding; and undergraduate research.

The Centers Review Committee reviewed 4 centers in the Fall and 2 centers in the Spring.

The SARIF Equipment Committee recommended that 7 of 11 requests for under \$5000 be fully funded, and that 4 not be funded. The Committee recommended that 9 of the 18 proposals for more than \$5000 be fully funded, and that one other be considered for funding. Recommendations were submitted to Janet Nelson and Beth Neilson.

The SARIF EPPE Committee was not called upon by ORE this year.

The SARIF GRA Committee provided individual comments and graded feedback to Janet Nelson, who made awards to 15 of the 43 applicants.

The Chancellor's Awards Committee recommended 4 out of 15 nominees for the Research and Creative Achievement Award, 4 out of 19 nominees for the Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Award, and 0 out of 1 for the Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award. Recommendations were submitted to Janet Nelson.

Election:

D. Steadman nominated R. Kalyanaraman to chair the RC in 2015-2016. The motion was seconded by K. Yeager and Kalyanaraman was elected unanimously.

Submitted by C. Shepardson (cshepard@utk.edu) on April 30, 2015.