

UTK Faculty Senate Executive Council

Committee Reports for Consent Agenda for February 19, 2018

Appeals Committee

No report.

Athletics Committee

No report.

Benefits and Professional Development Committee

Minutes, [January 31, 2018](#)

Budget and Planning Committee

No Report.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

No report.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Faculty Affairs has been working with the Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee on proposed changes to chapters 3-4 of the *Faculty Handbook*.

Graduate Council

Minutes for February 8, 2018 meeting not posted yet.

Library and Technology Committee

No report.

Nominations and Appointments Committee

No report.

Non-Tenure Track Issues Committee

NTT Issues Committee has been working with Faculty Affairs on proposed changes to chapters 3-4 of the *Faculty Handbook*.

Research Council

January 10, 2018 Minutes

Elected Members present:

Yuri Efremenko, David Icove, Julia Jaekel, Juan Jurat-Fuentes, Qiang He (Chair), Michael Kilbey, Jacob Latham, Andreas Nebenfuhr, Casey Sams, Soren Sorensen, and Xiaopeng Zhao

Ex-Officio Members present:

Teri Baxter, Steven Blackwell, Chris Boake, Holly Mercer, Robert Muenchen, David White, and Robert Nobles

Call to order:

Qiang He called the meeting to order. A regular meeting of the Research Council was held at Blount Hall room A004 on January 10, 2018. The meeting called to order at 3:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the October and December meetings were approved. One notation to the October minutes to add Michael Kilbey’s attendance.

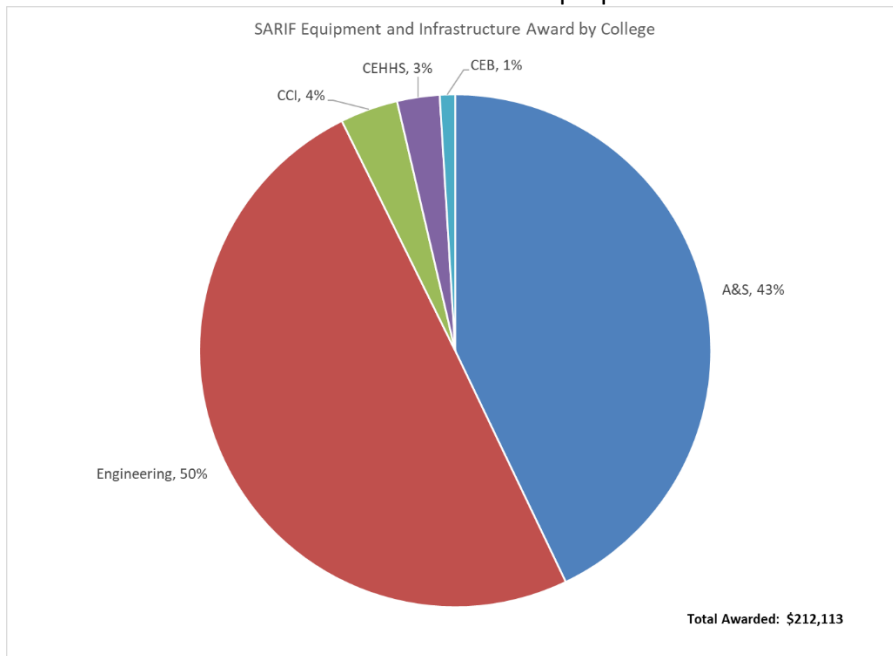
Announcements and Reports

March Research Council Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to move the March meeting from March 17 to March 7 to avoid the Spring Break week. Paula Brown will send out an updated meeting announcement. The Zoom link will remain the same.

Core Facilities Equipment and Infrastructure Fund – Xiaopeng Zhao

The Equipment and Infrastructure Fund received 27 proposals requesting \$530,253 in SARIF funds. The committee recommended to fund 15 of those proposals with a total award of \$212,113.



Chancellor Awards Committee – Soren Sorensen

The Chancellor Awards call for nominations was released on December 17 with a deadline of January 24, 2018. There were two multi discipline nominations, 26 Professional Promise for Research and Creative Activities, and 8 Research and Creative Activities nominations. The committee has the nominations for review and will return recommendations to the AVCRD by February 28, 2018.

Centers and Institutes Review Committee – Juan Jurat-Fuentes

The Centers are scheduled to be review this semester by the committee. The Korn Learning, Assessment, and Social Skills Center, Center for Sport, Peace and Society, and Center for Information Technology Research were notified on January 26 of the review and are scheduled to have their packages to the committee by March 28. The committee is expected to provide feedback and recommendations by May 7.

Presentations:

The UT Research Enterprise – Robert Nobles

The Office of Research and Engagement includes the Office of Research Development, Research Finance & Administration, Office of Sponsored Programs, Research Integrity, and Office of Undergraduate Research. ORE is focusing on informatics to make or guide decisions on research. Each week, ORE sends out a monthly award and proposal report. Paula Brown has an action to request the Research Council members be added to the distribution list for this monthly report. The data provides an opportunity to review the ROI from research dollars not only in internal funding awards, but also funding of research centers and institutes when compared award amounts are compared to proposal amounts.

This data is also key in recruiting and succession planning. Two-thirds of UTK current faculty can retire in 10 years which presents an opportunity to develop succession plans to capitalize on current strengths and develop other areas of strengths when recruiting for departments. However, there are competing measures between a faculty member's department tenure goals focusing on publications vs research activity focusing on submitting proposals. How to increase number of proposals submitted? Hiring 'new blood' with a specific focus on research. This is one reason the Chancellor has developed the Cluster Hire initiative; just recently releasing the Data Science Cluster proposal as well as three additional open calls for proposals. ORE will also create funding portfolios to align faculty to research endeavors beginning in year two instead of year three.

ORE has \$38M operating budget with \$4M in salary. 'Should the Research Council have input in ORE's budget?' RC member expressed the desire to have input in the budget process to align research initiatives. Dr. Nobles answered that the Research Council's responsibility is to ensure their department and colleges' have developed and implemented their strategic plans which will allow each to have input. However, the Research Council is probably not the correct group to determine budget for ORE. An RC member expressed concern that no additional dollars were requested for this year. Dr. Nobles stated that it is a fine balance between providing research funds and not dis-incentivizing the desire of faculty to request external funds.

The new VCR, Victor McCrary will arrive March 5. He will be invited to attend the Research Council meeting as his time allows.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:10pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula Brown

Next Meeting: February 14, 2018 @3:30 pm in Blount Hall A004.

Zoom Attendance: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/705429195>, please confirm with Paula Brown

Teaching and Learning Council

No Report.

Undergraduate Council

Minutes, [January 30, 2018](#)

University Faculty Council

The UFC met by videoconference on January 19, 2018. We were joined by David Miller, UT Chief Financial Officer, to discuss proposed changes in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP). David explained the motivation for many of the changes and their possible impact. While eliminating the requirement for 50% annuitization seems like a good change, the UFC is concerned about unintended consequences and is reluctant to support the changes without seeing at least draft legislation with an analysis. India agreed to set up a meeting with the Tenn. Treasurer's Office. There was a discussion of the emerging plans to reduce the size of the Board of Trustees and a consequent elimination of faculty and student trustees. There was no definite reduction plan at that time, but Feb. 8 was the bill-filing deadline. India also reported that the draft revision of tenure policy was in progress, with an expectation that it would be ready by the end of Jan., permitting four to six weeks for faculty review. There was a discussion of the free-speech legislation, which will have to be included in the campus faculty handbooks. India also reported on legislative concerns about a supposed lack of quality in teacher education programs and the idea of "teacher warranties." UFC will continue to monitor these and other legislative activities until it is clearer which might require action.

The UFC called a special (video) meeting January 24, 2018 with the state Treasurer and his staff. Treasurer David Lillard, Asst. Treasurer Joy Harris, and a half-dozen other members of his staff, along with representatives of several vendors, met with us by videoconference. We were also joined by David Miller and the CFOs or CBOs of UTC, UTHSC, UTIA, and UTIPS. Greg Kaplan (Chair, B&PD) also attended. The Treasurer had provided a two-page outline of the proposed bill, and Lillard and Harris summarized the legislation's content and intent. The campuses had many questions and for the most part we received clear answers (please see the UFC minutes for details). I believe the UFC is in general agreement that the proposed legislation is an improvement over what we have now.

The UFC called a special (video) meeting February 7, 2018 with Assoc. General Counsel Frank Lancaster to discuss the proposed revision to tenure policy and to organize the collection of faculty comments. Since the Board intends to adopt the new policy at its March meeting, the campuses will collect faculty comments for four weeks, and the UFC and India will review them in the Feb. 21 UFC meeting and submit them by March 1. In the previous round of proposed revisions and reviews, faculty input was effective, and we hope it will be this time too. There was a general discussion of the intent of many of the changes, and the UFC offered suggestions to improve clarity and addressed more substantive issues. The UFC is very concerned about some aspects of the revised policy and is working with the campus administrations to get them changed.

The agenda for the February 21, 2018 videoconference includes discussion of a response to the proposed reduction of Board of Trustees, finalization of the review of proposed tenure revisions, and updates from Government Relations & Advocacy and from Academic Affairs & Student Success.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce MacLennan
UTK elected representative
Chair, UFC

University System Relations Committee

Minutes, [January 10, 2018](#)