

**Resolution on Research Support
Brought by the Research Council
May 1, 2023**

WHEREAS the Research Council is concerned with recent turnover of research administration employees in the College of Arts and Sciences;

WHEREAS faculty are being asked to submit grant materials a full 10 business days before the submission deadline, a dramatic revision of the policy that was implemented in the fall, and causing difficulties for some faculty to meet submission deadlines;

WHEREAS grant proposals have been rejected at the College level even before Department Head approval, in direct conflict with UTK's vision of strengthening the impact and reputation of our research activities;

WHEREAS the Research Council believes that a deeper revision of the grant submission process and an examination of the relevant budget allocation is required, before the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Development (ORIED) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) work together to help ensure that the recent turnover of research administration employees does not limit the ability of faculty to seek research funding;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (i) modifications to the ORIED and CAS budgets be made to facilitate the grant submission process, (ii) improvements to the process of grant approval at the College level be made, including documentation of the value added, (iii) an explicit documented mechanism be created that allows faculty to justify a faster grant approval process when necessary, and (iv) there be an examination of the personnel issues that have led to high turnover among research administration.