

Motion on additional support for the Office of Research from F&A
(Approved by the Research Council at its May 4 meeting)

The Office of Research (OR) plays a central role in the stimulation and organization of research and in finding new research opportunities for our faculty and students of the University of Tennessee's Knoxville campus (UTK). OR organizes and supports various existing and new research initiatives, e.g. stimulation of participation of undergraduate students in the research. It provides campus researchers with advice, new solicitation alerts, and helps with proposal preparation, with organization of seminars on the improvement of proposal writing skills, etc. These activities have helped to increase the success of our proposals with funding agencies and, as a result, have increased the volume of F&A income at UTK.

The Research Council has noticed that the monetary resources presently allocated to OR, covering all existing operating activities, matching funds, awards, etc., are at a fixed amount that is NOT PROPORTIONAL to the total F&A income of the University, while the latter is in significant part a result of new initiatives and increasing efforts of OR. The Research Council believes that there should be additional allocation of monetary resources, above a fixed base amount, to OR from F&A income that is PROPORTIONAL to the raised F&A. These additional monetary resources will be an efficient investment in increasing the volume of research, as well as the volume of F&A at UT. This additional proportional allocation can be creatively used by OR as discretionary source for the stimulation and support of new initiatives and as incentives for involvement of more faculty and students in research. At the same time the fraction of F&A returned to the Colleges and Department should not be changed due to this proposed additional OR allocation.

Proportional allocation of F&A to OR is an existing practice at several universities in the country. In passing this motion, the Research Council recommends that the Chancellor's office redirect an additional fraction of overall F&A income to be proportional to F&A volume to the discretionary control of the Office of Research for the stimulation of research at UTK.

