

Research Council Minutes
October 25, 2004
Eighth Floor Board Room
Andy Holt Tower
3:30 – 5:00 P.M.

Attendees: Gayle Baker, Bill Blass, Ed Caudill, Billie Collier, Wayne Davis, Bill Dunne, Brandon Farmer, Arlene Garrison, Frank Harris, Tom Ladd, Julie Little, Carol Malkemus, Lillian Mashburn, Faye Muly, Stefan Richter, Mary Rogge, Jeanine Williamson, Clif Woods

Introduction – Bill Blass opened the meeting with the discussion of the Research Council committees. He also introduced Frank Harris, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Research. Blass discussed the standing committees and stated he would have the Chairs of the committees advertise the meetings and invite anyone who wishes to attend, particularly the ex-officio members.

Blass turned the discussion over to Lillian Mashburn who discussed federal items. Mashburn stated that depending on the election—if the senate and the house hold the republican majorities, they will convene around the 14th and try to pass a bill will be that will cover everything with the exception of energy and water. They do not want to cut programs to take care of that; therefore, there will be a year long program potentially for energy and water.

Clif Woods then led the Council in a discussion about the Joint Institutes between the University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Joint Institute of Computational Science is building which is funded by the State had been dedicated in the Spring. Woods stated that the Director, Tom Dunning will be leaving the University shortly after the first of the year. Jess Poore and Thomas Zachariah are serving as interim co-directors of the Joint Institute of Computational Sciences. It is hoped that a search for a new director will be initiated quickly. Woods further discussed OMB A-21. Departments did an assessment of what it would cost them to remove charges that are now being made to grants and contracts that are not allowable according to OMB A-21 guidelines. We have discussed how those expenses will be dealt with and the Chancellor sent a memo indicating that we are changing the F&A distribution. This is being done in part to help with the OMB A-21 issue. Starting this year, colleges will receive 30% of the F & A coming in to the University as opposed to 25% in past years.

Frank Harris discussed the Office of Research move. He stated that he was a biologist when he was previously at UT. He was the first director of the division of biology. Harris told the Committee that he was at NSF for 13 years before coming to UT. Harris commented that he had retired from the lab in September. Harris further stated that Clif Woods was concerned about the fact that the Office of Research had so many office issues as well as compliance issues. Harris went on to say that Billie Collier will be established as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Compliance. Harris stated that

Clif has asked him to look at a number of things focusing on the office of Research in making it the best service office in the University. Harris stated that Woods has also asked him to focus on the Environmental Centers at the University. We will continue to work with UT ORNL relations.

The meeting was then turned over to Billie Collier. Collier stated that this is the first annual competition for the Chancellor's Award to pursue external funding. Collier said that it was a very good competition with twenty applications. Twelve awards were given to departments to write and submit a grant proposal. Another announcement made by Collier is that we have a Biosafety Officer that we are sharing with the Institute of Agriculture. Her name is Robin Lynn Trundy. Robin can be reached at extension 1938. Her e-mail address is rtrundy@utk.edu. Collier also mentioned that the Coeus plan is moving forward for implementing the proposal development module of that enterprise data system. She further stated that we now have two pilot departments, one in Chemical Engineering and the other on the Ag Institute that are piloting proposal development. The Coeus website is www.utk.edu/coeus. The website has all the committees and the minutes of the meetings.

Gayle Baker discussed the Web of Science as an Assessment Tool.

Blass discussed the Research Council Goals for 2004-2005. A handout was passed out listing the fifteen goals.

There was no old business.

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Meeting adjourned.