

Tennessee Tech University
--- Office of Research and Economic Development ---

Minutes of the Meeting of

University Research Advisory Committee

The University Research Advisory Committee met at 1:30 pm Tuesday, April 28, 2020, via Zoom, with Dr. Jeff Boles presiding.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Michael Adduci, Dr. Steven Anton, Dr. Jason Beach, Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor, Dr. Adam Holley, Dr. Shelia Hurley, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan, Dr. Terry Saltsman, Dr. Mark Stephens, and Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

Members Absent: Dr. Deborah Barnard, Dr. Tammy Boles, Ms. Deborah Gernt, Mr. Craig Harrison, Mr. Greg Holt, Dr. Brian Leckie, and Ms. Kayla Sims

Others Present: Dr. Vahid Motevalli and Ms. Sandra Storie

1. Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2020

The minutes from the April 7, 2020 meeting were reviewed, with a motion to approve by Dr. Ghafoor and a second by Dr. Holley. Motion carried.

2. Old Business

Dr. Otuonye and Dr. Saltsman offered the committee an update on the research program at Tennessee Tech and the funding environment for externally sponsored projects. Faculty have been steadily writing and submitting proposals during the Spring 2020 semester. Congress will return to session on Monday, May 4, 2020. The main focus will be passing a budget. Funding for proposed university research projects is scheduled to be considered in both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

3. New Business

A. URAC Subcommittee | Data Collection and Impact Assessment of TTU Research Efforts

URAC members formed a subcommittee that will meet over the summer to identify ways to collect data about current research efforts and to assess the impact of programs such as Faculty Research Grants. Dr. Boles, Dr. Holley, and Dr. Hurley volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee. In addition, Dr. Mahajan, Dr. Motevalli, Dr. Natarajan, and Dr. Otuonye volunteered to help as needed and to provide information when possible in support the subcommittee's work.

B. 2021 URAC Chair

Dr. Hurley reported that Dr. Jeff Boles was suggested by URAC members to continue to lead the committee for the 2020-2021 academic year. Dr. Hurley made a motion to elect Dr. Boles as the 2020-2021 URAC Chair, with a second by Dr. Mahajan. Motion carried.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Storie, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 10/07/2020