

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, February 4, 2020, in the Deans' Conference Room, Derryberry Hall, Room 200, 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. Brian Leckie, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan, Dr. Mark Stephens, Mr. Braxton Westbrook, and Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

Members Absent: Dr. Debbie Barnard, Dr. Tammy Boles, Ms. Deborah Gernt, Mr. Greg Holt, Dr. Sheila Hurley, Dr. Terry Saltsman, and Ms. Kayla Sims

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was introduced by Dr. Boles, who requested the addition of Cornerstone and the Faculty Survey to the agenda. Dr. Anton moved to adopt the agenda with the suggested additions. Dr. Beach seconded. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2019

The minutes from the December 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed, with a motion to approve by Dr. Leckie and a second by Dr. Mahajan. Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. URAC Procedures Vote

The committee continued review of suggested updates to URAC procedures. The purpose of the suggested updates, presented at the meeting of December 12, 2019, is to align URAC procedures with Tennessee Tech's strategic plan. Committee members amended wording of the updates. Dr. Ghafoor moved to adopt the updated URAC procedures. Dr. Holley seconded. Motion carried.

B. Cornerstone

Dr. Otuonye updated the committee on the work of Cornerstone Government Affairs Group. Tennessee Tech has submitted about fifty proposals for potential Cornerstone collaboration. Certain agencies communicate freely with Cornerstone staff about prospective projects while others closely follow the peer review process.

C. Faculty Survey

Dr. Boles reviewed the results of the faculty survey. He found that the two primary areas of concern with respect to research are the need for additional faculty and the need to be able to adjust teaching loads. He suggested an agenda item for the next meeting be to draft a recommendation regarding how to build research capacity so that Tennessee Tech can reach the goal of doubling research funding within the next five years.

D. Scholastic Research Award

The committee reviewed two questions from faculty regarding the Scholastic Research Award. The committee confirmed that a faculty member who has received the award for tenure-track faculty is eligible to apply for the award as tenured faculty without regard to a time limit of three years. The committee confirmed that the applicant can choose any items of evidence they believe best support their application.

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

Office of Research URAC support staff will email the applications along with a ranking scale to committee members. Committee members are asked to rank the applications and return their scores to the Office of Research. The scores will be averaged for each application and are not binding. The scores will be provided to the committee as a starting point during the selection process. The committee added a meeting to the schedule in March in order to review applications and select the winner.

4. New Business

Due to time constraints, the final agenda item regarding Faculty Funded Research Committee Grants will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Storie, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 04/07/2020