

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 7, 2020, via Zoom, with Dr. Jeff Boles presiding.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Michael Adduci, Dr. Debbie Barnard, Dr. Jason Beach, Ms. Deborah Gernt, Dr. Adam Holley, Dr. Sheila Hurley, Dr. Brian Leckie, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Terry Saltsman, Dr. Mark Stephens, and Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

Members Absent: Dr. Steven Anton, Dr. Tammy Boles, Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor, Mr. Craig Harrison, Mr. Greg Holt, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan, and Ms. Kayla Sims

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

1. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2020

The minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting were reviewed, with a motion to approve by Dr. Beach and a second by Dr. Holley. Motion carried.

2. Old Business

A. URAC Procedures

URAC procedures updates, which were approved by the committee on February 4, 2020, were presented before both the Academic and Administrative Councils and have been fully approved by the university.

B. Scholastic Research Award

The committee selected Dr. Janet Isbell and Dr. Shelly Marasi as this year's recipients of the Scholastic Research Award. They have been notified that they will receive the award. The award ceremony has been postponed due to the national health emergency.

3. New Business

A. Faculty Research Committee Grants

Committee members discussed the Faculty Research Committee Grants program. The program has two tracks:

Track 1 offers awards up to \$3,000.

Track 2 offers awards up to \$10,000.

URAC members discussed the important role that this program could play in helping to meet the goal of increasing external research funding. The committee would like to be able to assess data about the impact of these types of programs moving forward. Dr. Boles and the committee will review the possibility of developing either a university level initiative promoting data driven assessment of research initiatives or a more focused approach in collaboration with the Faculty Research Committee Grants Program.

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B. 2021 URAC Chair

Dr. Shelia Hurley will be leading an effort to identify members with an interest in chairing the committee next year.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Storie, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 04/28/2020