

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 2:00 pm Wednesday, October 21, 2020, via TEAMS, with Dr. Jeff Boles presiding.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Jason Beach, Ms. Kelly Bell, Dr. Jeremy Blair, Ms. Julie Brewer, Dr. Tania Datta, Dr. Kristen Deiter, Ms. Deborah Gernt, Mr. Cody Godwin, Dr. Shelia Hurley, Dr. Brian Leckie, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Hayden Mattingly, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan, Dr. Terry Saltsman, Dr. Mark Stephens, and Dr. Jennifer Taylor, Executive Officer

Members Absent: Dr. Steven Anton, Dr. Adam Holley, and Mr. Greg Holt

Others Present: Dr. Francis Otuonye, Ms. Amanda Powell, and Ms. Sandra Storie

1. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2020

The minutes from the October 7, 2020 meeting, with a clarification of information regarding appropriation funding, were reviewed, with a motion to approve by Dr. Hurley and a second by Mr. Godwin. Motion carried.

2. Strategies for Increasing Externally Funded Research

Dr. Saltsman offered additional information about the appropriation process and the work of Cornerstone Government Affairs Group. The House of Representatives has voted on the appropriation. The Senate will vote in December 2020 or January 2021.

Dr. Datta shared her experience with the Harmful Algal Blooms project, describing the process of writing white papers and participating in a project that includes multiple institutions. Dr. Boles noted that faculty may generate project ideas or they could also be approached with an opportunity to participate in a project related to their area of expertise. Dr. Mattingly suggested that a graphic or a flowchart summarizing the process and key contacts for researchers pursuing this avenue of funding would be helpful and could be shared on the Office of Research website.

Dr. Boles spoke about the role that the University Research Advisory Committee can play in helping generate interest in this type of funding, encouraging members to serve as ambassadors across campus by highlighting past successes as well as promising opportunities. In the current year, information regarding submission of white papers was shared through Academic Deans. Dr. Boles suggested adding Academic Department Chairs as a point of contact for distributing information to faculty next year. Committee members discussed options for sharing information about working with Cornerstone across campus, such as an information session similar to the Research 101 modules.

Dr. Boles and Dr. Taylor spoke about the importance of the university having a diverse approach to securing externally funded research, using both traditional competitive processes and nontraditional avenues such as Cornerstone.

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3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Storie, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 11/11/2020