

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 1:00 pm Thursday, November 18, via TEAMS, with Dr. Jeff Boles presiding.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Jeremy Blair, Ms. Julie Brewer, Dr. Kristen Deiter, Dr. Ferdinand DiFurio, Dr. Adam Holley, Dr. Shelia Hurley, Ms. Gail Ligon, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Hayden Mattingly, Dr. Rory Roberts, Dr. Mark Stephens, Dr. Leslie Suters, and Dr. Jennifer Taylor

Members Absent: Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu for Dr. Tania Datta, Mr. Greg Holt, Dr. Brian Leckie, Dr. Terry Saltsman, Mr. Elijah Tidwell, and Ms. Megan Wharton

Others Present: Dr. Amanda Powell and Ms. Sandra Storie

1. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2021

The minutes from the October 14, 2021 meeting were reviewed with a motion to approve by Dr. Hurley and a second by Dr. Holley. Motion carried.

2. Update on the Status of Faculty Research Committee Grants

Dr. Taylor shared information about the Faculty Research Committee Grants program. Dr. Taylor is working with the Faculty Research Grants Committee, the committee chair, and key persons from across campus to update the program. In addition, the review is incorporating URAC's recommendations that were shared with President Oldham during fall semester 2021. Dr. Boles requested that URAC be updated when changes to the program are finalized.

3. URAC Procedures

URAC previously discussed a need for a Chair-Elect position. Dr. Boles reviewed suggested changes to the URAC procedures that would add this officer role and that would outline the duties of the Chair-Elect. The committee members discussed and revised the list of duties. Dr. Boles will send a copy of the revised procedures prior to the first meeting of the spring semester so that the committee can vote on the procedures update.

4. Chair-Elect Position

Dr. Boles asked that committee members who have an interest in serving as Chairperson in the future please contact Dr. Mahajan. While the committee is working on the procedures update and the process for electing the Chairperson, Dr. Mahajan has agreed to reach out to the membership to assess interest.

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5. New Business

Dr. Boles introduced a suggestion from committee members that URAC examine ways to reduce administrative burden in research. Committee members agreed that this type of review would be worthwhile and also acknowledged that positive solutions have been developed in recent years in some cases. Dr. Boles encouraged the committee to act as an advocate for research at TTU in helping to address challenges. Dr. Boles, Dr. Hurley, Dr. Roberts and Dr. Taylor offered to meet and discuss potential areas where it would be possible to enhance research by removing administrative burden.

6. Adjournment

Dr. Mattingly made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Dr. Holley. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Storie, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 02/08/2022