

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 Thursday, October 3, 2019, in the President's Conference Room, Derryberry Hall, Room 210, with Dr. Jeff Boles presiding.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Michael Adduci, Dr. Steve Anton, Dr. Tammy Boles, Dr. Adam Holley, Dr. Shelia Hurley, Dr. Brian Leckie, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan, Ms. Deborah Gernt, Ms. Kayla Sims, and Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

Members Absent: Dr. Debbie Barnard, Dr. Jason Beach, Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor, Mr. Craig Harrison, Mr. Greg Holt, Dr. Terry Saltsman and Dr. Mark Stevens

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

**1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda for the October 3, 2019 meeting was approved on motion by Dr. Mahajan and seconded by Dr. Natarajan. Motion carried.

**2. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2019**

The minutes from the September 5, 2019 meeting were approved on motion by Dr. Adduci and seconded by Dr. Holley. Motion carried.

**3. Old Business**

Dr. Jeff Boles met with President Oldham and discussed Tennessee Tech's research program. Cornerstone Government Affairs Group will assist in building relationships with funding agencies on behalf of Tennessee Tech University. Cornerstone is requesting that the university submit information about projects on which the group might assist. This request has been shared with Deans across campus. The template for project submissions will also be shared with URAC members by email. Dr. Otuonye added that Cornerstone is working to encourage cross disciplinary projects as well as to foster partnerships with other academic institutions. TTU is also hiring a patent attorney to assist with protecting and commercializing work. URAC members discussed committee members' roles as advocates to help leverage available resources.

The Office of Research is collecting information from faculty across campus to highlight their ongoing research as well as areas of expertise and creative interest. Faculty are being asked to compile information into a PowerPoint slide with pictures based on templates available through Amy Hill. Slides are being posted on the Office of Research website and are in addition to a faculty research expertise directory that the Office of Research updates each fall.

- a. URAC Faculty Survey: The survey subcommittee shared a draft survey, with URAC members reviewing the information and offering feedback. The subcommittee will send the revised survey to the committee electronically, with the faculty survey taking place immediately after Fall Break.

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- b. Offset Term Limits: Dr. Otuonye shared term limit information with the Office of the President and updates will be posted to the TTU Office of Research website soon.
- c. URAC Procedures: Committee members discussed the need to review the purpose and scope of URAC Procedures. A subcommittee of volunteers will look at current URAC procedures and bring recommendations to the full committee. Subcommittee volunteers included Dr. Anton, Dr. Hurley, and Dr. Natarajan.

**4. Scholastic Research Award**

Dr. Jeff Boles shared the Application Process for the Scholastic Research Award, which was updated last year. Two awards are available annually, with one focusing on tenure track faculty the other on tenured faculty. The award process is highlighted on the Office of Research website, and applications are due February 28, 2020. URAC members discussed a goal that faculty are aware of this award opportunity and are encouraged to apply. The committee will share information in Tech Times. URAC members will also promote this opportunity within the individual colleges.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm. Dr. Hurley requested a motion for approval to adjourn. It was seconded by Dr. Natarajan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandra Storie*, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 11.07.2019