

University Research Advisory Committee (URAC)

Procedures (Approved 2019-2020)

- I. **NAME** – University Research Advisory Committee (URAC) of Tennessee Technological University

- II. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE** – The University Research Advisory Committee advises the President and President’s cabinet members on strategies to stimulate growth in scholastic and externally funded research and innovative/creative activities within the university community. The Committee advises on the development of a comprehensive structure and network of programs to foster these activities in support of all four strategic goals set forth in the University’s “Tech Tomorrow” strategic plan with the following objectives as deemed necessary by the committee:
 - O1: Expand scholastic and externally funded research
 - O2: Support faculty collaboration (both internal and external) and development
 - O3: Promote cross-disciplinary and integrated programs and scholarship
 - O4: Foster undergraduate research
 - O5: Advocate for research related faculty and staff positions
 - O6: Review and evaluate administrative processes related to research
 - O7: Support technological and research related entrepreneurship

- III. The Committee reports directly to either the Academic Council or Administrative Council, or both, depending on the matter at hand. In carrying out its function the Committee will:
 - a. Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges to research growth and externally funded scholarly activities at TTU;
 - b. Identify emerging research opportunities anticipated across the academic disciplines;
 - c. Make recommendations regarding intellectual and infrastructure needs required to capitalize on major research opportunities;
 - d. Develop plans and make recommendations for accessing, supporting and sustaining existing and emerging research thrust areas;
 - e. Review current practices in research administration and recommend strategies to foster research growth; and
 - f. Make recommendations regarding the commercialization of research and intellectual property issues.

- IV. **MEMBERS** – The Committee will consist of the following members appointed by the President of the University. The President may request nominations or suggestions from the Provost, Vice President of Research and Economic Development, and Deans of the Colleges.

- A. FACULTY – A minimum of ten (10) faculty members with representation for the seven (7) colleges and one (1) school as follows:
- College of Agriculture and Human Ecology: one (1) member
 - College of Arts and Sciences: two (2) members
(1-Humanities and 1-Sciences)
 - College of Business: one (1) member
 - College of Education: one (1) member
 - College of Engineering: two (2) members
 - College of Fine Arts: one (1) member
 - College of Interdisciplinary Studies: one (1) member
 - School of Nursing: one (1) member
- B. ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE – two (2) members - Department Chair, Dean or Associate Dean
- C. CENTERS – one (1) member – Center Director
- D. BUSINESS & FINANCE PLANNING – one (1) member representing business and finance
- E. LEGISLATIVE – one (1) member, Assistant to the President on Strategic Programs
- F. STUDENTS – A minimum of two (2) students, selected from the list of names submitted by the President of the Student Government Association. Student membership will consist of one (1) undergraduate student and one (1) graduate student.
- G. TERMS OF OFFICE – Student members will serve a one (1) year term, administrative and Center members will serve a two (2) year term, whereas faculty members will serve a three (3) year term. Appointments are to be effective at the beginning of the Fall Semester of the academic year. All appointments are subject to renewal at the discretion of the President.
- H. VACANCIES – If a member is unable to continue service on the Committee, another member representing the same college or constituency shall be appointed by the President to serve the remainder of the term.
- I. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – If a member is unavoidably absent from a meeting, he or she may designate a representative to attend on her/his behalf, provided that the substitute or representative is someone from the same college or constituency as the regular member, and that the chairperson of the Committee is notified ahead of time as to whom this proxy would be and the circumstances under which the substitute would be attending the meeting. The substitute shall exercise the rights and privileges of the member for whom he or she is substituting.

V. OFFICERS

- A. **CHAIRPERSON** – The Chairperson shall be elected from the Committee membership annually. She/he shall:
- Preside at all meetings or designate another member to preside.
 - Schedule regular meetings of the Committee.
 - Prepare a tentative agenda for each meeting for distribution to members of the Committee at least three working days prior to regular meetings and one day prior to special meetings.
 - Approve the minutes of the meetings for distribution to the members of the Committee.
 - Appoint special subcommittees as required.
 - Call special meetings when necessary.
 - Supervise the preparation and distribution of an annual Report of the Committee's activities.
- B. **EXECUTIVE OFFICER** – The Vice President for Research and Economic Development will serve as the executive officer and resource person for the Committee and will also provide staff support services.

VI. MEETINGS

- A. Regular meetings shall be scheduled at least two times per semester during the regular academic year. The date and time for such meetings shall be included in the Administrative Calendar. The Chairperson may call a special meeting when he/she deems such action necessary.
- B. Items for inclusion in the tentative agenda of a regular meeting must be submitted to the Chairperson at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. Items for a special meeting must be submitted at least two (2) working days prior to the meeting. Any member of the University community may submit tentative agenda items to the Chairperson.
- C. The agenda shall be adopted at the beginning of each meeting by a majority vote of those present.
- D. A simple majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. In determining the minimum number of members necessary for a quorum at any meeting, neither faculty members on official leave nor student members not currently enrolled will be counted.
- E. In any matter requiring a vote, the vote of each Committee member present shall be recorded equally.

- VII. SUBCOMMITTEES** – Ad hoc subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee as she/he shall deem necessary, or as shall be deemed necessary by the Committee.

- VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY** – The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern Committee meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these procedures. Suspension of these rules may be effected by a majority of voting members present.
- IX. AMENDMENT OF PROCEDURES** – These procedures can be amended at any regular meeting of the Committee by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to each member at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting. Amendments to Procedures are subject to final approval by the Academic Council and Administrative Council.
- X. COMMITTEE ACTION AND REVIEW** – Actions of the Committee are subject to review by the Academic Council or Administrative Council, or both, depending on the matter at hand and approval by the President. The Committee will be required to submit annual reports to the President and Academic Council or Administrative Council or both.
- XI. EFFECTIVE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION** – The procedures shall become effective upon approval by the President and the Academic or Administrative Council.

Revised URAC: 02/04/2020

Approved Administrative Council: 03/11/2020

Approved Academic Council: 03/25/2020