

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, December 12, 2019, in the Deans' Conference Room, Derryberry Hall, Room 200, with Dr. Jeff Boles presiding.

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Steve Anton, Dr. Jason Beach, Dr. Tammy Boles, Ms. Deborah Gernt, Dr. Shelia Hurley, Dr. Brian Leckie, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Terry Saltsman, Dr. Mark Stephens and Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

Members Absent: Dr. Michael Adduci, Dr. Debbie Barnard, Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor, Mr. Craig Harrison, Dr. Adam Holley, Mr. Greg Holt, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan, and Ms. Kayla Sims

Others Present: Ms. Sandra Storie

**1. Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2019**

The minutes from the November 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed, with a motion to approve by Dr. Anton and a second by Dr. Mahajan. Motion carried.

**2. Old Business**

*A. Scholastic Research Award*

Applications for the Annual Scholastic Research Award are due on or before February 28, 2020. URAC Members developed a plan to promote the award.

- URAC members will encourage faculty within the college/school they represent to apply.
- An announcement and reminder concerning the award will be published in Tech Times.
- Dr. Boles will discuss the award opportunity during an upcoming meeting of Department Chairs. He will also reach out to Chairs by email and ask them to inform faculty in their department about the opportunity and support qualified applicants in pursuing the award.

*B. Spring 2020 Meeting Dates and Times*

URAC members indicated via Doodle Poll that the most convenient meeting date/time is the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30. The initial meeting for Spring Semester is planned for February 4, 2020 at 1:30 pm. Additional Spring Semester Meetings are planned for March 3 and April 7.

*C. Procedures Subcommittee Report*

The Procedures Subcommittee presented their work linking the role of the University Research Advisory Committee to Tennessee Tech's Strategic Plan. The subcommittee also presented recommended updates to URAC's procedures. The objectives shown in the updated document follow the university's Priority Actions.

URAC members proposed modifying Objective 5 to read: Lobby for/advise on research related faculty and staff positions.

Dr. Anton moved to adopt the updated URAC procedures, with the modification to Objective 5. Dr. Mahajan seconded. The committee decided to wait on the final vote regarding the updated procedures document to ensure an appropriate quorum.

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**3. Such Other Matters**

Dr. Otuonye updated the committee on a visit by TTU faculty to the National Science Foundation. The Program Director at the National Science Foundation showed great interest in working with Tennessee Tech. NSF staff encouraged TTU to send proposals and to serve on review panels. Also, NSF would like to work with Tennessee Tech to host NSF Day on campus in the next year or two.

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm. Dr. Anton requested a motion for approval to adjourn. It was seconded by Dr. Leckie. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Storie, Committee Support Personnel

Date approved by committee: 02.04.20