

## The University of Tennessee Strategic Plan

### Goal 2. Expanding Research Capabilities

#### Background:

#### Initial Implementation Tasks:

1. Form the System Research Committee and determine the operating practices and area of system focus; align with UT's strategic research goals and initiatives
2. Develop an Industry Advisory Council; determine operating practices and areas of focus; define integration activities with UT's research goals and initiatives
3. Use the UT System Research Committee to define and develop outcome and impact measures and ensure compliance

#### Research Implementation Champions:

David Millhorn (UT System), Taylor Eighmy (UTK), Polly Hoffman (UTHSC), Steve Thompson (IPS), Greg Heath (UTC), Joan West (UTM), Bill Brown (UTIA), Dave Washburn (UTRF), Stacey Patterson (UT System)

#### Research implementation plan progress to date:

##### 1. System Research Committee

The System Research Committee serves as a formal framework for the University's research thought leaders to interact and share opportunities, discuss and address common challenges, and develop strategies that ultimately lead to greater overall competitiveness across the University of Tennessee research enterprise.

The goals of the committee are:

- a) to foster collaboration among the different campuses and institutes;
- b) to encourage positive change through the promotion of a grand vision and set aspirational, yet attainable, goals;
- c) to identify novel ways to broaden new and existing venues for funding;
- d) to support innovative ideas to leverage existing resources;
- e) to recommend research policy that facilitates growth;
- f) to develop a culture that embraces and rewards positive change.

Specifically, during years one and two, the committee will:

- a) develop a system-wide research plan that leverages the combined resources of all the campuses and institutes while taking advantage of the individual strengths and uniqueness of each;
- b) serve as a portal for information sharing, with the members of the committee being responsible for working with other campus leaders to communicate research priorities, goals, and opportunities to the broader stakeholder base;
- c) work to develop policies to promote inter-campus collaboration;
- d) develop uniform conflict of interest procedures, facilities use agreements, or other agreements as appropriate.

## **Membership**

Initial membership of the System Research Committee includes the Chief Research Officer on each campus or institute. The current CROs system-wide include:

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Dr. Millhorn will serve as Chair of the Committee and has appointed Dr. Stacey S. Patterson, Assistant Vice President for Research & Director of Research Partnerships as Secretary (non-voting) to help facilitate documentation and communication to members. Meetings will be held at least quarterly. Meetings during the first year will be held as half day workshops (two in person and two via video conference).

A formal invitation and announcement of this committee has been sent and the kick-off meeting is scheduled in Nashville for May 24, 2013. This half-day workshop will focus on developing awareness and defining some fundamental constants that each unit can use to help focus the growth of the overall UT research enterprise. Each campus/unit represented will be asked to prepare and present their own strengths, weaknesses, barriers, and most promising opportunities. This information will be used to help develop the system-wide research plan by the end of 2013.

**2. Industry Advisory Council**

The UT Industry Advisory Council (UTIAC) provides executive level counsel and thought leadership on opportunities for the University of Tennessee to better serve the State of Tennessee and expand our relationship with private sector industry. The UTIAC will play an instrumental role in identifying market trends as well as industry needs that will help position the University of Tennessee to better meet the future challenges of our private sector partners.

UTIAC goals specifically include:

- a) providing advice and counsel on broad industry trends and their implications to research and education, specifically in terms of unique opportunities for the University of Tennessee;
- b) providing advice and counsel on how to strengthen UT's current relationships and opportunities to develop new relationships with corporate partners;

- c) providing advice and counsel on the identification of upcoming research and development opportunities;
- d) providing advice and counsel on the commercialization of intellectual property developed at the University of Tennessee;
- e) providing advocacy for research and development and strong industry relationships for the University of Tennessee.

**Membership:**

1. Request nominations for potential individuals/companies to serve on the council.
  - a. Individuals should be executive level – “rain-maker” type individuals.
  - b. The ultimate committee should be comprised of individuals who will be there to learn from each other and not just for us...
  - c. We should keep the membership open to as many of the “right” people as we can land.

**Questions/Request:**

1. The implementation champions requested nominations for this committee from University leadership. We have only received two potential names to date. This System Research Committee will evaluate all nominations and make recommendations to Dr. DiPietro on membership once the specific objectives of the council are determined.
2. The interaction/overlap of this council with other college/campus level industry advisory committees needs to be determined. The System Research Committee will discuss this topic during the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in Nashville.

**Other significant developments on Goal II action items:**

1. Goal II 2.1 called for the revitalization of UT Research Foundation (UTRF) and 2.2 stated to provide UTRF with the necessary resources for incubating and maturing Intellectual Property and commercializing UT research. Significant progress has been made in both of these action areas. UTRF has completed a comprehensive budget analysis and significant commitments have been secured through the FY14 budgeting process. Additionally, UTRF completed a five year strategic plan that outlines specific goals and objectives for the organization. This plan has been reviewed and approved by the UTRF Board and will be used to help evaluate progress.
2. Goal II 2.4 action item included the further development of UT’s research park activities. To this end, a Master Ground Lease and five year Development agreement have been approved and executed to the UT Research Foundation to be carried out by their wholly-owned subsidiary, Cherokee

Farm Development Corporation. Additionally, leadership has been recruited to CFDC and active marketing and negotiations are underway. Benchmarking activities are also being conducted and three members of this implementation champions team are headed to the NC State Centennial Campus to evaluate best practices being used there and how this may translate into success for UT.