

**Senate Council on Research and Scholarship Minutes**

**March 23, 2012, 265 Williamson Hall**

**10 am – noon**

**Attendees:** Debra Murie, Paul Mueller, Tom Walsh, Sandra Russo, Bob Cook, David Hahn, Sandra Russo, Sue Alvers, Henry Frierson

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Bob Cook (co-chair).

Minutes from February were approved.

**Discussion and update on training grants and faculty research**

Bob Cook gave a short recap about what the council has discussed during the past year, such as different training grants and management of these grants. A long discussion continued on the funding of graduate students on training grants. Training grants cover 60% of tuition with 40% coming from department budgets. With reduced administrative support, PIs are burdened with not only the financial issues but also trying to track students. Soon it will be cheaper to hire a part-time student or a part-time employee than to support a graduate student. With the cost of tuition increasing, new ways must be found to cover graduate tuition in order to compete nationally for excellent students. It was noted that NSF plans to increase its stipends, however, most master students are not eligible for these grants.

**Elect Chair for 2012-2013**

Debra and Bob explained the work load involved with the council chair position. They noted that one of them was designated the “chair” in order to vote at the Steering Committee but sharing the position worked well. They encouraged members to nominate themselves for the position. Council chair will be decided at the April meeting.

**Next Meeting**

Elections for new members will be April 2 – 16. It was suggested that the council should invite new members to April’s meeting since it will be the last one for the year. There will also be an update from Lee Catledge from Enterprise Reporting on grant system and shadow books. Debra Murie will lead that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.