

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

February 11, 2009

325 Burruss Hall

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: L. Coble, D. Cook, M. Cavell (for C. Dawkins), S. K. De Datta, R. Hall, B. Huckle, T. Herdman, T. Inzana, D. Jones, S. Martin, K. Miller, T. Schroeder (for D. Dean), B. Vogelaar, P. Young,

Members Absent: R. Benson, N. Clemency, T. Fox, R. Grange, R. Kapania, R. Siegle, R. Veilleux, P. Zellner

Invited Guests: C. Montgomery, S. Muse

1. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was offered by L. Coble and seconded by T. Inzana and carried.

2. Approval of the minutes for CoR meeting January 28, 2009: A motion to approve the minutes was offered by T. Inzana and seconded by B. Vogelaar and carried.

3. Update on Removal of PI Policy and the IP Resolution:

B. Huckle gave the Commission an update on the status of the proposed Removal of a PI Policy that was reviewed during our last several meetings. He reported that the majority of Commission members voted and all were in favor of approving the policy; the slight edits that R. Grange had suggested were included for clarification. S. Martin reported that the resolution came before the Faculty Senate and was approved on 2-10-09. The resolution will come before the University Council next.

B. Huckle also reported that the resolution amending the by-laws to the Intellectual Properties Committee policy had been circulated and approved by all including University Council.

4. Virginia Center for Coal & Energy Research (VCCER) Review:

S. Muse reported to the Commission on the five-year review of VCCER. She explained that a survey was sent out to government officials, industry individuals, and VT personnel and is due to be returned by Feb. 18th. She explained that the chair of the review committee, W. Lee Daniels, aims to have a draft report by March, but it actually will not be ready for the CoR to review until the April meeting. S. Muse stated that the goal is to have it approved by the end of this semester.

5. Fralin Life Sciences Institute Charter:

T. Schroeder explained that this is first version of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute Charter and that D. Dean would like for the CoR to begin reviewing it with the understanding that there will be another section forthcoming. D. Dean will have a presentation at our next meeting to further explain the mission of the Institute and the Director's vision.

T. Schroeder explained that the forthcoming section is regarding a new unit that is currently called the Center for Health and Medical Education. The funding will come from the VTCC School of Medicine to the Institute. It will also serve as a unit to pay regular Va Tech Faculty who choose to teach at the School of Medicine and it will also be the home of the Master of Public Health program that is currently under development. T. Schroeder explained that it is going to be set up this way to distinguish the flow of funds between the Fralin Institute and the VTCC School of Medicine.

While discussing the Fralin Charter, Policies 13005- Interdisciplinary Research Centers, and Policy 3020- Centers Financial and Administrative Policy and Procedures were discussed in connection with the new charter.

B. Vogelaar expressed his concern in that the institutes take away some of the autonomy from the colleges and departments. T. Inzana explained that institutes have a stronger emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and research than there would be within a college or across colleges. B. Vogelaar stated that once you set up these entities, they are more self-preserving and there is no returned overhead to the departments, colleges, and university. T. Inzana explained that the funds that come in through a center or Institute are obtained by performing new collaborative, interaction network research.

B. Vogelaar pointed out that the criteria for evaluation in the policy should be clarified. There should be some indication on what measures you're going to be judged on; not the fact that funding was obtained, but somehow that the university reaped significant rewards that they wouldn't have gotten otherwise. B. Huckle commented that in doing collaborative research, it would be difficult to quantify your accomplishments. R. Hall stated that there actually is a very complex algorithm to try to measure the marginal return as opposed to the return. R. Hall explained that the institutes that are invested in are evaluated on that objective. He also stated that Virginia Tech has been recognized for developing the measuring tool.

6. Review of Policies 13005- Interdisciplinary Research Centers, and Policy 3020- Centers Financial and Administrative Policy and Procedures:

R. Hall spoke with the CoR about trying to reconcile the definitions in the two above listed policies and the third 'unwritten policy' that are somewhat in conflict with each other. R. Hall has drafted a charge for the subcommittee that has volunteered to look at this during an earlier meeting. R. Hall explained that when these policies were written, the five major Institutes were not in place and therefore, the definition of a 'center' included 'institute.' R. Hall wants the subcommittee to recommend a set of definitions that would apply to both of these policies. . B. Huckle and R. Hall agreed that it would be helpful to have some additional members from within and outside the CoR on this subcommittee. K. Miller (University Controller) volunteered to be involved with the subcommittee. B. Huckle asked if there were any CoR members who are not themselves officers of units that would like to participate in the room. There were no volunteers. R. Hall requested that we ask the Chair of the Commission on Outreach for a representative. D. Cook suggested that we send out an email for those members that were not present who may be interested in participating.

7. **Meeting adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by L. Coble and seconded by T. Inzana and carried at 5:13pm.