

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

March 2, 2011
325 Burruss Hall
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jesus de la Garza (Chair), S.K. DeDatta, William Huckle, Delbert Jones, James Jones, William Knocke, Bradley Martens, Heather Moorefield-Lang, Robert Siegle, Satyavrata Samavedi, Chris Zobel, Shelly Key (Recording Secretary).

Absent: Lay Nam Chang, Kevin Davy, Dennis Dean, Serkan Gugercin, Terry Herdman, Roderick Jensen, Brenton Laing, Steve Martin, Robert Walters, and Randy Wynne.

Guests: Jim Campbell (for Randy Wynne), Rodd Hall (for Robert Walters), Ken Miller, Sandra Muse.

I. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was offered by R. Siegle and seconded by W. Huckle and was carried.

II. Approval of the minutes for CoR meeting February 9, 2011: A motion was made to amend the February 9, 2011 CoR minutes as follows: Under Section III, B. - delete the word “to” in the first sentence. Sentence should read “Dr. de la Garza announced that the March meeting date for the CoR has been changed from March 9 to March 2, 2011.” Under Section IV, a.i: Insert period at the end of first sentence after the word “Science.” In third paragraph, second sentence, delete “think about” and replace with “be concerned with.” Under Section IV, a.iv: Insert the word “future” before “meeting” in the last sentence in the second paragraph. Sentence should read: “Someone from IDDL will be coming to a future meeting to help with this issue.” In the third paragraph, second sentence, delete “as student.” Sentence should read “Some undergraduate students develop IP in the course of taking classes at Virginia Tech.” Under Section IV, a.v.d: Reformat into three questions the third sentence regarding key questions to read: “Why should IA funds all go through the Virginia Tech Foundation (VTF)? What are the IP issues? What are the membership benefits?”

A motion was made to adopt the February 9, 2011 minutes as amended and the motion was carried.

III. Announcements: J. de la Garza announced that the date for the April CoR meeting has been changed from April 13 to April 6, 2011.

IV. Unfinished Business:

a. Standing Committee Reports

i. Library Committee: H. Moorefield-Lang reported that the new Dean of Libraries, Tyler Walters, will begin employment on March 15, 2011. J. de la Garza suggested that Dr. Walters be invited to a future CoR meeting to talk about strategic issues. H. Moorefield-Lang will extend the invitation to the Dean.

The café and coffee shop is scheduled to open March 15, 2011.

At this time the library is still in the Beta testing phase with the Summon Software. It is being used and it is being taught with the understanding that it is still being beta tested. The library is still having some technology issues with the software company.

ii. Personnel Committee: R. Hall reported that the survey concerning the ICTAS director review will be released the last week of March in order to get the report to Dr. Benson by early May.

iii. Special Research Faculty Task Force: W. Huckle reported that the full task force met on February 23, 2011, and is nearing completion of a set of recommendations put forward by the three standing subgroups (classification/governance, compliance, and career opportunities/job security). It is likely that among these will be the recommendation that the Commission on Research formulate a mechanism by which special research faculty may become involved in the VT governance system, perhaps by inclusion on those University Commissions or Committees for which they currently may not be eligible. Other possibilities related to the goals of this Commission include improving communication of matters especially germane to research faculty or fostering the formation of a special research faculty campus organization.

iv. IP Committee: On behalf of W. Knocke, R. Hall reported that the Intellectual Properties Committee, working in conjunction with the VT Center for Survey Research, has completed development of the survey instrument. The survey will be used to poll faculty members on IP issues and is scheduled to go out sometime during the final weeks of this semester.

v. Institute Reviews: R. Hall reported there are no changes in this area. No institute reviews are scheduled for this year.

b. Research Administrative Systems: R. Hall reported that the best and final offer on two systems has been received and a recommendation will be made to the executives by the end of March. One of the systems is customizable while the other is a “what you see is what you get” product. B. Martens asked if work should continue on the PI portal work that is being done by the College of Engineering. R. Hall said that the PI portal was not part of the system being purchased, and that work done on reports that could be accessed through such a portal would still have value in the new environment.

c. Realignment of University Centers: On behalf of W. Knocke, R. Hall reported that meetings regarding the center transitions will continue through the end of March. It is expected that all nine centers will have homes by the end of the semester, at which time MOUs will be written to document all changes and agreements concerning administrative matters.

d. Industrial Affiliates Programs: On behalf of W. Knocke, R. Hall reported that the task group has met and is moving forward with their work.

e. Inputs/Comments to Proposed Revision of Policy 13005: On behalf of W. Knocke, R. Hall shared with the group the meetings and presentations that have been held or are scheduled to be held in conjunction with the proposed 13005 and 3020 policies. They are as follows:

- February 3 Faculty Senate Officers Meeting
- February 8 CARS/CAGS Group
- February 9 Academic Affairs Council (Deans and VPs)
- February 9 Commission on Research (1st Reading)
- February 10 Commission on Outreach

February 18	Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 21	Institute Directors Meeting
March 2	Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies (if needed)
March 14	Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
March 15	CARS/CAGS Group
March 15	Faculty Senate
March 16	Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies (if needed)
March 17	Commission on Outreach (if needed)
April 6	Commission on Research (2nd Reading)

To date, input received from these meetings has not been significant. Concerns received outside the meetings has been expressed about the quarterly reconciliation/reporting stipulations in the policy, especially in relation to centers in an institute or department that may be directly managing their own accounts (the accounts instead being managed through the department or institute directly). Also, a concern was expressed about the elimination of the concept of de facto centers.

The Commission discussed wording changes to Policy No. 13005 Revision 2: Page 11, #8, replace the word “required” with “current.”

Under Definitions (in both policies), first paragraph, (3), “specialized learning opportunities” delete the word “specialized.”

Add to resolution a “Whereas” listing all the groups outside the governance structure that were briefed on policy changes.

W. Knocke reported that at today’s meeting with the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, it was recommended that an appeal process be incorporated into the question of the decision on establishing a particular entity.

f. New Business: There was no new business.

g. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.