

## COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

September 15, 2010

325 Burruss Hall

3:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** J. Campbell, S. K. De Datta, D. Dean, J. de la Garza, S. Gugercin, J. Jones, W. Huckle, R. Jensen, D. Jones, W. Knocke, B. Laing, B. Martens, S. Martin, H. Moorefield-Lang, R. Siegle, S. Samavedi, R. Walters, C. Zobel.

**Members Absent:** T. Herdman

**Other:** K. Miller, D. Taylor, R. Hall, R. Hash, S. Muse.

**I. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda presented was amended to include “Research Administration System” under section III.e and “Intellectual Property Committee” as section IV.a.4; The agenda was adopted as amended.

**II. Approval of minutes for CoR meeting May 5, 2010:** The minutes were approved as presented.

### **III. Announcements:**

- a. Commission members and guests introduced themselves.
- b. J. de la Garza reviewed the commission’s charge: *To study, formulate, and recommend to University Council policies and procedures concerning research. Areas for consideration include: sponsored programs, core programs and interdisciplinary research; intellectual properties; animal care and human subjects; indirect costs and overhead; research facilities, centers and institutes, and library resources; liaison with affiliated corporations and institutes; and other matters that affect research.*
- c. J. de la Garza announced the commission’s need for a vice-chair to be elected from within CoR membership, and reviewed the three roles of the vice-chair: to serve as chair for the Personnel Committee; to serve as a substitute for the chair in his/her absence; and to assume the role of chair in the following fiscal year. J. de la Garza reviewed the nomination procedure and the requirements for eligibility. Self-nominations were encouraged prior to the following meeting. Office of Research staff were to verify eligibility for chair and get this information to the Commission.
- d. J. de la Garza reviewed his goals for the Commission’s agenda for the fiscal year 2010-2011:
  - 1) The initiative to realign the research centers.

- 2) Special Research Faculty Task Force issues.
  - 3) Ongoing review of institutes.
  - 4) Ongoing review of institute's directors.
  - 5) Update of research policies in the 13000 series.
- e. R. Hall reported on the procurement process for a new research administration system that will be state-of-the-art and become the core research management system in our suite of enterprise systems. Hall stressed the importance of faculty input. He said that two vendors will be on campus all day October 1 and 7 and that two open sessions would be held for the broad university community each day. The schedule is pending and CoR membership will be sent information on the open sessions prior to October 1.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Standing Committee Reports:
- 1) Library Committee: Moorefield-Lang reported that the committee has met once. The first-floor entrance to the library and the checkout area are now open. The dean of the library is retiring and the search committee has met and plans to be aggressive in their search timeline.
  - 2) Personnel Committee: R. Jensen reported that in the spring three Center Directors were reviewed. Dr. Turner from the Macromolecular Materials Institute; Dr. Dingus from the Virginia Transportation Institute; and Dr. Queck from the Center for Human Computer Interaction. Reports were compiled and sent to Dr. Walters, as the supervisor for the three individuals.
  - 3) Special Research Faculty Task Force: W. Huckle, reported that the task force had met twice. They have been tasked by OVPR to take a hard look at the policies and procedures impacting the category of employees referred to as Special Research Faculty, which now comprises over 600 individuals. The importance of their contribution to research at VT is growing. Four subcommittees have been created and will report their findings at a meeting on October 29.
    - i. Compliance: W. Knocke, chair
    - ii. Classification and Governance: J. Finney, chair
    - iii. Career/ Teaching: C. Wilkinson, chair
    - iv. Job Security: T. Campbell, chair
  - 4) Intellectual Property Committee: W. Knocke reported that the committee wants to focus primarily on what VT can do

to educate faculty and graduate students about intellectual property policies and opportunities. Also, the issue of student design teams arose in the spring and there were some unexpected IP outcomes.

- b. Current Center Reviews:
  - 1) S. Muse reported that the MII report was completed at the end of the academic year 2009-2010. Nancy Ross will report on it at the October meeting for approval and closure.
  - 2) D. Taylor reported on the CHCI review. Key stakeholders were surveyed as well as the members of the center. The committee made five recommendations as outlined on page 7 of the report available on the Scholar website for the Commission. A motion was unanimously adopted to accept the report and recommendations of the Review Committee and forward to Vice President of Research Walters for action.
  
- c. Current Center Director Reviews:

R. Walters reported that Tom Dingus of VTTI and Richard Turner of MII both were re-appointed for five-year terms and have accepted. Dr. Quek submitted his resignation as director of CHCI. The interim director for CHCI is Andrea Kavanaugh.
  
- d. Consolidation of Faculty Handbooks:

S. Muse reported that the existing faculty and the Special Research Faculty handbooks have been combined into one. The new version is posted for information on the CoR Scholar site and is always available on provost.vt.edu. It has been approved by the president and accepted by the BOV. There are 13 chapters, and Chapters 6 and 11 are the two most relevant to research.
  
- e. Research Policies Update:

W. Knocke reported that policy 13005 has not been updated since 2001, and is out-of-date given the actual structure of university institutes and centers. A CoR subgroup was created with W. Huckle and S. Gugercin as volunteers to assist W. Knocke, R. Hall, and K. Smith with updating 13005 and 3020 so that they are consistent and accurate. The goal is to have the policies reviewed and through the governance process by the end of this year. Other policies in the 13xxx series will also be reviewed to

see if changes are necessary.

## V. New Business

a. Presentation of the New Research Website and the Scholar Website:

R. Hash reviewed the new CoR website. Unlike the Scholar website, this site is for both VT and public access. S. Muse reported on the Scholar website. Much pertinent data is posted, including all six of the 13xxx policies, as well as the Faculty Handbook broken down into sections, current list of centers and institutes, and Robert's Rules of Order.

b. Realignment of Centers:

R. Walters reiterated that current policies do not reflect how the structure of research has changed at VT since the 1980's. The institutes are now the primary instrument by which the university invests seed capital into research. He questioned the logic of reviewing university centers when the university has no funds invested in them. He proposed to eliminate the university centers and have a three tiered system: institutes, college centers and department centers. He would like to have the focus of reviews be on the institutes, and he will work with the deans and the Dean's Council. There was discussion about the overhead agreements of centers and who is authorized to create centers. R. Walters reported that each center will be reviewed on a case-by-case- basis and an MOU will be created. The goal is to have all centers have a new home by March of 2011. W. Knocke mentioned he had met with all nine university center directors and has addressed concerns about the realignment, and that faculty will have a lot of input into the final administrative home for centers.

**VI. Adjournment:** J. de la Garza stressed the importance of meeting attendance and urged members to send a substitute if they are not able to attend. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.