

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

March 2, 2016

325 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm – 5:00pm

Minutes

Attendee: Benjamin Corl (Vice Chair), Srinath Ekkad, Theresa Mayer, Jewell Trent, Alan Grant, Myra Blanco, Jennifer Irish, Nathan Hall, Michael St. Germain (for Scott Klopfer), Stephen Hensell, Barbara Lockee, Jim Foreman (for Van Crowder), Robert Vogelaar, Sandra Muse (for Randy Wynne, Sue Teel, Tom Bell, Kaveh Rahimi, Kurt Zimmerman and Monica Rich (recorder).

Absent: Paul Knox. Jonah Fogel, Annie Pearce, Cheryl Carrico, Ben Knapp, and Dipankar Chakravati.

Guest: Martin Daniel, Ken Miller, Iuliana Lazar and Peggy Layne

- I. Approval of the Agenda - A motion was made and the agenda was approved.

- II. Announcements
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of February 10, 2016 – The meeting minutes were approved electronically.

- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. Report of Ongoing Activities
 - i. University Library Committee – No report.
 - ii. Update from Faculty Senate – B. Corl reported Jack Finney presented the proposal on collegiate professors which are a proposed class of faculty that are non-tenure track. Ken Erickson presented a proposal for an ombudsperson that will serve the faculty and maybe staff.
 - iii. Centers and Institutes Update – S. Ekkad reported five (5) institute and institute director reviews are moving along. You may receive a survey related to an institute you are involved with. Please respond. It will probably be in the fall before we present any update to the COR.
 - iv. Research Administration – M. Daniel reported there are now 40 users of Summit including 6 active faculty who are piloting the system. An additional 14 PI's will start piloting in the spring. The team is currently working on the technical infrastructure and access control needed to develop an on-line routing and approval function. Key functionality that has been completed include "hover help", multiple information views, and streamlining of proposal requirements that are all designed to make it easier for faculty to exchange information with OSP, manage data in a single system, and eliminate unnecessary steps. The most significant next step is to develop a pilot environment for routing and approval and engage more faculty in input prior to a campus wide roll-out.

- b. Committee on Research Challenges – J. Irish reported the committee met with two members on the Commission on Faculty Affairs. A letter was sent Dr. Mayer from COR to hopefully open dialogue on the issues.

IV. New Business

- a. Discussion with Dr. Theresa Mayer, VPRI – Dr. Mayer addressed the letter that was sent to her from the COR Committee on Research Competitiveness. Having arrived recently she is trying to understand the role of the COR and the governance system of Virginia Tech. Her priority is to consider the research enterprise as a whole, by building the infrastructure and serving as a facilitator. Four key areas were discussed:
 - *Support for large proposals:* High priorities are to take look at how the office in collaboration develops more comprehensive strategies to large proposals. If we are going to transition into winning larger programs, we have to provide some level of support at multiple levels. Focus on NSF and other federal agencies. Need to work on these very large proposals years in advance, to identify external partners, etc. Support would be at the level of a group starting with someone to coordinate the proposals and identify how we pull these resources together. Support would also engage professional proposal developers who work with extensively with the PI; internal editing and internal offices being able to plug into and a group of such proposal developers.
 - *Broader Impacts/Outreach/Engagement:* We need core programs that all faculty can tap into, e.g., offices or groups across campus providing different activities that would fall into broader impact activities, to include K-12, Outreach, Undergraduate Research, Industrial Partnerships, and Inclusion and Diversity. These core programs would have bases in education theory and include assessment components. These supporting groups can help at junior faculty level, for example, so the expectation is not that all should re-invent the wheel.
 - *External Foundation Support:* Charlie Phlegar works in the Foundation and can help with a strategic hire in this area.
 - *Shared Core Research Facilities:* We will evaluate external tools that help us structure, organize and manage core research facilities more effectively. Such initiatives will facilitate negotiated service contracts, facilitate a new startup model to provide dedicated use of these shared facilities, and prioritize university equipment needs for MRI, DURIPS, etc. competitions.

The COR can help with providing feedback as the structures mentioned above are established.

V. Adjournment: 5:02PM