

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

March 14, 2012
325 Burruss Hall
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Randy Wynne (Chair), Michael Akers, Lay Nam Chang, Kevin Davy, Guru Ghosh, Serkan Gugercin, Delbert Jones, William Knocke, Jeff Moore, Heather Moorefield-Lang, Annie Pearce, Anita Puckett, Wornie Reed, Arnab Roy, Chris Zobel and Tammy Bose (Recording Secretary).

Absent: Dennis Dean, Jesus de la Garza, Terry Herdman, William Huckle, Bradley Martens, and Robert Walters.

Guests: Will Eyestone (for Bill Huckle), Roderick Hall (for R. Walters), Ken Miller, Sandra Muse, Ishwar Puri, and Janet Webster (for Dennis Dean).

I. Approval of Agenda:

a. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was offered, seconded and was carried.

II. Announcements

a. Approval and Posting of the minutes of February 8, 2012: R. Wynne reported that the minutes from the last meeting on February 8, 2012, were approved by the membership electronically and are available on the Commission Scholar site.

III. Unfinished Business:

a. Report of Ongoing Activities

i. Library Committee: H. Moorefield-Lang reported that Julie Speer, the recently-hired associate dean for research and informatics, has arrived. The library's recently hired associate dean for learning and outreach Brian Mathews has started multiple discovery learning groups. These groups are comprised of qualitative small teams with a total of 48 members. The teams are observing library and other public areas to learn more about how students use their space to study. The goal is to redesign the library space and learning commons to better fit the needs of the students. Librarians recently went to North Carolina University libraries to observe students, as the university has recently completely renovated their student areas.

ii. Centers and Institutes Committee: K. Davy reported that the committee has met several times and the VTTI review is now in progress. An internal organization meeting was held, and the committee then met with Dr. Dingus to detail the procedure and time lines for the review. Two directors of a Michigan and a Texas transportation institute have been chosen to serve on the external review committee. The review committee is scheduled to meet with the external reviewers on April 17 and 18, 2012.

iii. Human Resource Committee: There were no new items reported.

iv. Research Administration Committee: K. Davy reported that the Cayuse research administration system has been fully released for use university-wide as of March 12, 2012.

IV. New Business:

a. Presentation of ICAM Five-year Review Report

R. Wynne reviewed relevant items in the Policy 13005 (attached as "Policy 13005, Revision 2, Section 3.5, Centers and University Institutes: Establishment, Governance and Programmatic Oversight.") drawing attention to Section 3.5.1., component number five, which states the

Commission is responsible for voting on the approval of the recommendations in the report of the review committee. Items that the review committee for the center must answer as part of the review process are listed at the end of Section 3.5.2.

Dr. Ishwar Puri, department head of the Engineering Science and Mechanics department at Virginia Tech and chair of the ICAM review committee, reviewed the main points of the ICAM Five-year Review Committee Final Report. As part of the review process, the review committee conducted focus interviews with various stakeholders, members of ICAM, and department heads. They then did a review of the collected data and developed the report based on the specific questions and guidelines in Policy 13005.

The mission of ICAM is to address problems in modern science and advanced technology by using new mathematical tools and algorithms. Its main focus has been the physical sciences and engineering, but has recently branched out into traditionally less quantitative disciplines such as life sciences. This is considered a prudent direction to take because of the intersection of biology and mathematics opens a new frontier. ICAM uses discreet mathematics to solve epidemiological problems, such as calculating the spread of a virus. It uses mathematics simulations, computing resources and mathematical methods. It forms a mathematical model, feeds it into high performance computers and then obtains a very sophisticated and theoretical computational analysis. The full report is attached as part of these minutes ("Final Report, ICAM Five-year Review Committee, March 12, 2012,").

The following recommendations were made as a result of the report:

Recommendation 1. Center charter: The committee recommends that a charter that reflects the mission, vision and goals of the center be written by the center leadership after discussions among its various stakeholders and provided to the university in accordance with Policy 13005. The most recent annual report (Appendix I) of the center provides evidence that there is already a basis for a center charter.

Recommendation 2. Faculty Participation: The committee recommends that the center organize venues, such as retreats, for its members to engage in discussions about overarching issues that are relevant to its future, and to discuss a more formal procedure to integrate core faculty members as its members.

Recommendation 3. University Funding: The committee recommends that the relevant stakeholders discuss the possibility of additional university support, including Equipment Trust Fund support.

Recommendation 4. Facilities: The committee recommends that the relevant stakeholders discuss the possibilities of obtaining more space and of a better quality.

Recommendation 5. Financial Audit: The committee recommends that a new financial audit be conducted prior to the next Center five-year review such that the next committee will have current data available to develop a clearer opinion on this issue.

A motion was made to accept recommendations as made by the ICAM review committee. It was seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

V. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.