

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

April 6, 2011
325 Burruss Hall
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jesus de la Garza (Chair), Serkan Gugercin, Terry Herdman, William Huckle, Delbert Jones, James Jones, William Knocke, Robert Siegle, Robert Walters, Randy Wynne, Chris Zobel, and Tammy Bose (Recording Secretary).

Absent: Lay Nam Chang, Kevin Davy, S. K. de Datta, Dennis Dean, Roderick Jensen, Brenton Laing, Bradley Martens, Steve Martin, Heather Moorefield-Lang, and Satyavrata Samavedi.

Guests: Kyrille Goldbeck (for H. Moorefield-Lang), Rodd Hall, Dongmin Liu (for K. Davy), Ken Miller, Sandra Muse, Nancy Ross (for L. N. Chang).

I. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was offered, seconded and was carried.

II. Approval of the minutes for CoR meeting March 2, 2011: A motion was made to adopt the March 2, 2011 minutes without modifications and the motion was carried.

III. Announcements: J. de la Garza announced that at the May 11, 2011 meeting, the elections will be held for the CoR Chair position for the next academic year. As Vice Chair of the CoR, Randy Wynne is an automatic nominee. Suggestions were solicited for additional nominees. Election of the vice Chair will occur this fall. The three primary roles of the Vice Chair were reviewed; namely, to fill in for the Chair if s/he cannot attend a meeting, to chair the Personnel Committee, and to be a nominee for the Chair position in the subsequent year.

IV. Unfinished Business:

a. Standing Committee Reports

i. Library Committee: K. Goldbeck reported for H. Moorefield-Lang. Goldbeck reported that the new Dean of Libraries, Tyler Walters, began employment on March 15, 2011. The Dean will be hosting a town hall meeting for the library on April 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Greenberries Cafe opened on March 15, 2011. Staff and students are very happy with the new café. Participation in the Virginia Tech meal plan was suggested, and the owners of Greenberries will explore if it is possible to participate.

Technical issues with the Summon database system have arisen, so the system will continue to be tested through the summer. Once it is up and running there will be a link on the library's home page.

J. de la Garza suggested that Dean Walters be invited to give a presentation on the current status of the libraries to the CoR perhaps in May or early next semester.

ii. Personnel Committee: R. Wynne reported that the survey concerning the ICTAS director review will be completed by April 18, and a report will be given to the CoR as part of the evaluation process.

iii. Special Research Faculty (SRF) Task Force: W. Huckle reported that the full task force met March 24, 2011, for its last face-to-face meeting. The task force

has voted on 15-20 items, and is currently drafting the final report with a goal of completion by the end of the semester. Among the recommendations in the report is that SRF become involved in the Virginia Tech governance system, and there may be a request to the CoR to suggest a system by which this can be accomplished.

iv. IP Committee: W. Knocke reported that the Intellectual Properties Committee, working in conjunction with the VT Center for Survey Research, has polled faculty members on IP issues and has received over 200 responses. Data obtained from the survey will be used over the summer to explore the educational issues of IP and technology transfer. There are many situations related to undergraduate project design and disclosure in which the IP ownership is unclear. Policy 13000 only minimally addresses this issue. OVPR and VTIP will work on the IP issues in the next fiscal year and possibly speak to the CoR in the fall.

v. Institute Reviews: W. Knocke reported that there are no institute reviews scheduled for this year.

b. Research Administrative Systems: R. Wynne reported that the technology offered by each of the two companies competing for the university's research administration system is very different from the other. The committee had chosen one of the systems, but found that there were technical difficulties and the scalability of the system might not suit the needs of Virginia Tech well. The committee feels the urgency of choosing a system, but is hesitant to invest in a high-cost system that may be limiting in the long run. The committee has had extensive discussions regarding the pros and cons of each system with two peer institutions that have already implemented either Cayuse 424 or Click Commerce.

c. Realignment of University Centers: W. Knocke reported that the committee is scheduled to have completed the realignment process of all centers by the end of the semester. MOUs will be prepared to document all changes and agreements concerning administrative matters. A detailed report summarizing the realignment outcomes and the MOUs will be presented at the May 11, 2011, Commission on Research meeting.

d. Industrial Affiliates Programs: W. Knocke reported that the task group continues to address twelve issues, among them:

- What really constitutes an IA Program? Key issues revolve around IP and deliverables.
- Policies and guidelines are needed that reflect the needs of entities that align with NSF, either as in various options .
- The Virginia Tech Foundation (VTF) IRS tax status is being reviewed. It is possible that a recommendation will be made to divide the funds from the IA programs when they arrive at the VTF; a large portion of the IA payment will be designated for university use and another portion will be designated as a gift. Typically funds are not taxed if they come in as a form of an outright annual fee to the IA Program.
- When a faculty member that has initiated an IA Program leaves the university, who then assumes ownership? There is not a specific policy addressing this.

There is a moratorium on the development of IA Programs, with the exception of those programs that had already initiated the process. There are two remaining meetings in which to resolve these issues.

e. Second Reading and Vote of Proposed Revision of Policy 13005: W.

Knocke reported that the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP), the Commission on Faculty Affairs and the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs have voted to endorse policy 13005. CUSP felt that on there should be two deans who have a disciplinary interest in the proposed institute on the review team for a proposed new center or institute. CUSP also suggested that a third dean who has no disciplinary interest should be added as a checks and balance to the process. After discussion, the revision team decided that this was not necessary, as all deans at the university are likely to be mindful of costs involved in creating new entities.

It was also considered to possibly leave the policy number for the 13005 policy intact and create a new number for the policy currently being created with the revisions. University administration had recommended replacing the existing policy with one having the same number.

R. Walters thanked those involved with the revision of policy 13005 and stated he feels we are now in a better position for the establishing, oversight and termination of centers.

W. Knocke proposed a motion that the Commission on Research formally approve Resolution 2010-11A. There was a vote and the motion was unanimously carried. Hence Resolution 2010-11A will be submitted to University Council by this Friday, April 8, 2011 for the first reading.

V. New Business:

a. Request for Input to the Revised Faculty Handbook (Aug 2010) S. Muse reported that the Special Research Faculty Handbook had been consolidated with the Faculty Handbook this past August and is now available in its entirety online. S. Muse is a member of a team reviewing the handbook for necessary corrections, clarifications and missing information, and asked the group to use the link on the Scholar web site to review the entire handbook and submit comments. The review team is looking primarily for administrative type changes rather than policy change, as policy changes need to go through the university governance bodies for review and approval. However, all recommendations will be taken to the table.

The revision team is meeting next at the end of April; comments and suggestions submitted will be considered for the version of the handbook submitted to the BOV August 2011. The revision process is ongoing, and comments submitted after the deadline will be considered for the next round of revisions.

Policy changes being recommended currently by the SRF Task Force will not be reflected by the deadline for the August handbook. The recommendation to eliminate the word "special" in the title Special Research Faculty would be a change that would have to go through governance.

IV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.