COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
Minutes
April 9, 2014
325 Burruss Conference Room
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Attendee: Jesus de la Garza (Chair), France Belanger (Vice Chair), Jewell Trent, Bill Knocke, Anna Hawthorne (for Sue Teel), Tom Inzana, Nathan Hall, Bob Walters, Annie Pearce, Mike Akers, Jonah Fogel, Randy Wynne, Lenny Grant and Monica Rich (recorder).

Absent: Iuliana Lazar, Ben Knapp, Jacob Randall, Paul Knox, Chris Lawrence, Anita Puckett, Lay Nam Chang, and Michael Bertelsen

Guests: Peggy Layne, Bill Huckle, Ken Miller, Joe Merola, John Fike, Amel Cuskovic and Sandra Muse

I. **Approval of the Agenda**
   a. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

II. **Announcements**
   a. A motion was made and seconded to post the minutes of March 19, 2014. The motion carried.
   b. The first reading to University Council of COR Resolution FY2013-14A was April 7, 2014. The second reading is set for May 21, 2014.

III. **Unfinished Business**
   a. Report of Ongoing Activities
      i. University Library Committee – J. Fike, chair of the University Library Committee (ULC), distributed a letter written by ULC which outlined specific needs and recommendations for enhancing the libraries' role in advancing the University strategic plan. ULC seeks a commitment from COR to support increased funding for collections and library spaces.
      ii. Centers and Institutes Update – No report.
      iii. Research Faculty Initiatives
         1. HR Sub-committee - M. Akers reported the final report of the sub-committee is close to completion and should have it to present at the next meeting.
      iv. Research Administration – K. Miller/B. Walters – The process for developing a campus-wide electronic research administration system is changing. Carl Harris will now lead the development process. The goal of the effort is to facilitate the proposal approval and submission process, thereby providing greater flexibility for faculty and a stronger platform for research compliance monitoring. The projected date for completion is 2017.

IV.   New Business

    a. Update on Current Research Activities – B. Walters expressed his appreciation to the Commission for its support of and contributions to the research enterprise at Virginia Tech. During the past year, faculty research in areas of national and global importance, such as security, energy materials and environment, social and individual transformation and the health sciences have increased in scale and prominence. This spring, our university will celebrate the first commencement ceremony for graduates of the Carilion School of Medicine. During the past year, an Innovation Ecosystem Review Committee (IERC) was chaired by Beth Tranter with the goal of evolving the university infrastructure and facilitating linkages with external partners. IERC members included faculty across colleges who are supportive of innovation program development, have a deep understanding of innovation program development, best practices for industry engagement, and the policy environments of peer institutions. An executive committee has been formed under the leadership of the Provost. Executive Committee members include representatives from the deans' council as well as representatives from Research, University Development, the Virginia Tech Foundation, Outreach and International Affairs, Alumni Relations, the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center and Finance. To date, the group has met 4 times and developed subcommittees to provide detailed recommendations in the areas of Seed Funding, Gateway Services, Education Programs and Campus Climate, and Investor, Industry, and Alumni Engagement Some areas of university intellectual property policy, such as student-generated intellectual property, would benefit from additional clarification. OVPR expects to engage the COR on these ideas by the end of the year.

    b. Review of UCLA case and Safety Protocols in Laboratories – J. Merola presented a summary of recent lab accidents at other universities including UCLA and how using the "proper" safety equipment could have prevented the deaths and amputations. Merola suggested the university should take proactive steps in reviewing safety practices used at Virginia Tech. He found safety policies and procedures not easy to find and questioned who enforces the rules/regulations?   Merola noted there was not a single point of reference for all of our safety procedures.

V.   Adjournment – 5:05pm