

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

May 10, 2017

130 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm – 5:00pm

Attendee: Benjamin Corl (Chair), Theresa Mayer, Jennifer Irish (Vice-Chair), Martin Daniel (for Srinath Ekkad) Tom Bell, Dipankar Chakavarti, Saied Mostaghimi, Gail McMillan (for Ginny Pannabecker), Steve Nagle, Bruce Vogelaar, Stefan Duma, Samantha Fried, Kurt Zimmerman, Amer Fayad (for Van Crowder), Scott Klopfer, Nancy Dudek, Randy Heflin (for Sally Morton), Mike Sorice (for Kevin McGuire) and Sandra Muse (recorder)

Absent: Barbara Lockee, Andrew Neilson, Nathan King, Cheryl Carrico and Myra Blanco

Guest: Peggy Layne, Lauren Magruder, Linda Bucy and Charles Clancy

- I. Approval of the Agenda – A motion was made and the agenda was approved.
- II. Announcements
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of April 12, 2017 – The meeting minutes were approved electronically.
 - b. COR Schedule for FY2017-18 – B. Corl asked the COR members to update their calendars for the meeting times for FY2017-18 listed at the bottom of the agenda and noted the changes to the date of the September and October meetings due to scheduling conflicts.
- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. Report of Ongoing Activities
 - i. University Library Committee – There was no report.
 - ii. Update from Faculty Senate – B. Corl reported the Open Access Committee provided a presentation, Julie Speer was the presenter with a number of COR members present. Some senate members had concerns in terms of the mechanics and the policy itself in its meaning for the faculty in their publishing ability. There is going to be additional work with the faculty senate to improve their understanding of the policy and the benefits to them and the University as well as publication policy. The Library offered to speak with any department to help educate.
Officer elections were held for next year with Hans Robinson as President, John Farris, as Vice President and Bob Hicok as secretary. There was also a comment that there was a need for more diversity with the faculty senate leadership in the coming years.
A presentation was given by the faculty senate task force which outlined some principles to help with the Incentive Based Budget model. The faculty senate is very interested in the model as it continues to develop.
 - iii. Centers and Institutes Update – T. Mayer noted inconsistencies in the current centers and institutes Policy 13005. She asked a small working group of the Commission be formed to conduct a review of the policy in the fall and recommend updates to reflect the priorities of the University. Dr. Mayer received a letter of intent from the Hume Center with a recommendation from the center's advisory board to become a University Center. This would enable the Hume Center to lead some larger federal and cross college and multidisciplinary activities. Dr. C. Clancy gave an overview of the Hume Center for National Security and Technology, principally a soft money research center, currently housed under ICTAS. The Center includes three laboratories;

the electronic systems laboratory, the information technology laboratory, and the aerospace systems laboratory. There are a total of 42 soft money research faculty and staff that make up the Center and 29 affiliated tenure track faculty from other departments and colleges. There are about 350 graduate and undergraduate students involved in the programs. The majority of the 83 graduate students have graduate research assistantships funded by grants and contracts. The Hume Center's research portfolio includes classified and non-classified projects funded by federal and non-government agencies. Since their launch in FY10 the Center received over \$70M in awarded grants and contracts. During calendar year 2016, 400 papers were published in peer reviewed academic forums. Following the presentation, a motion was made, seconded, and voted upon to recommend that the Hume Center become a University Level Center reporting to the Vice President for Research and Innovation.

- b. Committee on Research Competitiveness – B. Corl reported for Barbara Lockee. Some results of the focus group meetings related to shared instrumentation at the University were provided. One key question being asked was where the University lacks instrumentation. A number of the focus groups listed high quality imaging equipment, high resolution microscopy or MRI type equipment where the University could make investments. A second place being mass spectrometers. Mass specs are on campus but it seems access is limited. In terms for models which have worked for shared equipment, ICTAS was given high marks. Also recommended was a comprehensive list of equipment and its access on campus. A comprehensive report from the focus groups will be developed this summer. Additional work in this area is expected to continue in the coming year.
- c. Open Access Policy Draft – As mentioned in the faculty senate update, McMillan noted the issue appears to be education of the faculty regarding the policy. Learning what the publisher's policies should be easy to do. We could then share that information as well. There will be education sessions on campus this summer for faculty to learn more about the policy.
- d. Update to Policy 13005 – There was no report.
- e. Task Force on Shared Governance Update – There was no report.
- f. Update on Revisions to Faculty Handbook - M. Daniel reported on the next steps for revisions to the Faculty Handbook. The edits endorsed by COR in the last meeting will be submitted to the Provost Office followed by submission to the BOV for approval in August.

IV. New Business

- a. Presentation on CREST (Comprehensive Research Enterprise System Team) - M. Daniel gave a presentation with a brief overview of the history of the research administration system and its goals. After a number of efforts, Summit was launched in August 2016 allowing a collaborative environment for faculty and OSP to engage in building the proposal with on-line routing and approvals. This has now been developed into a suite of software tools. A few examples were presented on-line. The current focus is to launch a version of Summit for portable devices. There is on-going troubleshooting, feature enhancements and efforts to identify the next system priorities. Linda Bucy and Lauren Magruder answered questions from COR members.
- b. Vice-Chair for FY2017-18 – B. Corl called for nominations. As the only nomination received was Ginny Pannabecker, she will be the vice chair for COR next fiscal year.
- c. Suggestions for Commission Topics for FY2017-18 – Suggestions included:
 - Review of Research Policies, specifically Policy 13005

- Continued work of the COR Committee on Research Competitiveness
- Crowdfunding at Virginia Tech to include who participates, amounts, timing and how to be fair.

Anyone with additional suggestions should contact Jen Irish.

In closing, B. Corl thanked all members for their participation this fiscal year and in particular those whose terms ended this year. Dr. Mayer thanked the Commission members and indicated they were very beneficial to the Research Office as well as the feedback from the COR Committee on Research Competitiveness.

V. Adjournment at 4:52pm