

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

Minutes

September 10, 2014

325 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm – 5:00pm

Attendees: France Belanger (Chair), Randy Wynne (Vice Chair), Jewell Trent, Adrian Ares, Srinath Ekkad, Nathan Hall, Martin Daniel (for Bob Walters), Alan Grant, Jesus de la Garza, Iuliana Lazar, Jonah Fogel, Barbara Lockee, Robert Vogelaar, Cheryl Carrico, Scott Klopfer, Paul Knox, Sue Teel, Tom Inzana, Tara Reel and Monica Rich (recorder).

Absent: Annie Pearce, Ben Knapp, Chris Lawrence

Guest: Peggy Layne, Ken Miller, 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. Welcome and Introductions – Members of the Commission and guests introduced themselves.
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of May 14, 2014 – A motion was made and seconded to post the minutes. The motion carried.
 - c. Schedule of COR meetings for FY2014-15* – The Schedule was reviewed.
 - d. Existing Policies on Virginia Tech Animal Research and Virginia Tech Human Subjects Research were assigned Research Policy Nos. 13035 and 13040 respectively and moved to Research from their general category.
- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. Report of Ongoing Activities
 - i. University Library Committee – N. Hall reported several new hires were made this summer. Budget reductions will not affect the library this year. Open Access Week is October 20-26. Funds are available for faculty pursuing open access publication.
 - ii. Centers and Institutes Update – S. Ekkad reported the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Pamplin College of Business was approved in the spring and the Center for Business Intelligence & Analytics was chartered during the summer.
 - iii. Research Faculty Initiatives
 1. HR Sub-committee – No Report
 - iv. Research Administration – M. Daniel reported a new team was creating custom software to use across the university. A group of programmers are working with OSP to develop this software. We hope to have the run of the first product in December or January.
 - b. Letter of Support for Funding of Library Collections and Spaces – After much discussion, the members of the Commission on Research (COR) expressed overall support for the idea that the university should invest in library resources, as well as all other research infrastructures, in a way that is consistent with Virginia Tech's peer institutions. Furthermore, COR members suggested that future development of new institutes, centers, or academic programs should include sufficient funding in their proposals to support such research infrastructures. There was a discussion by COR members that the Commission should not be involved in budgeting discussions. Feedback from COR members was requested by the chair.

IV. New Business

- a. Topics for Discussion by COR in FY2014-15 – F. Belanger
 - i. Ask the President, Dr. T. Sands and the Provost, Dr. M. McNamee to meet with the COR – We are not planning to invite Dr. Sands or Provost, but will invite Dr. Walters to discuss the Research Agenda given to him by Dr. Sands.
 - ii. Review and Update of Research Policy No. 13015 Ownership and Control of Research Results – Dr. Walters was asked to have the COR review this policy to see if it is still current given our digital age. A Committee will be set to evaluate this policy. Three of five people that have volunteered to review are, Nathan Hall, Adrian Ares and Iuliana Lazar. R. Wynne will chair.
 - iii. Discussion of Safety Protocols in Laboratories – Would like to collect various questions that we can send to Joe Merola so he can address our concerns. We can invite him back to speak to the COR. It was also mentioned that Charlotte Waggoner, University Biosafety Officer, could speak to the COR as well.
 - iv. National Science Board Document on Compliance – F. Belanger noted the document was available on scholar where there are four major recommendations. This will be an item for discussion at the next COR meeting.
 - v. Identify barriers faculty face in doing research and what can be done.
 - vi. R. Vogelaar suggested a discussion of faculty senate input into new centers/institutes.
- b. Research Policy No.13020 Misconduct in Research – T. Inzana reported changes to the policy were mandated by an outside agency. Inzana informed the COR of the changes and noted that the year needs to be changed. Review in scholar and submit changes/suggestions to Dr. Tom Inzana.

V. Adjournment: 5:03pm