

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

September 30, 2009

325 Burruss Hall

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: D. Cook, D. Dean, S. K. De Datta, W. Ducker (for Chema de la Garza), R. Hall, W. Huckle, T. Inzana, R. Jensen, D. Jones, J. Jones, B. Laing, K. Miller, S. Samavedi, R. Siegle, R. Veilleux, P. Young,

Members Absent: J. Ball, R. Benson, L. Coble, T. Fox, T. Herdman, S. Martin,

Invited Guests: P. Hyer

Others: S. Muse, C. Montgomery

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was offered by B. Laing and seconded by T. Inzana and carried.
- 2. Approval of the minutes for CoR meetings May 11, 2009:** A motion to approve the minutes was offered by D. Cook and seconded by B. Laing and carried.
- 3. Introduction of CoR members:** The Commission is comprised of a total of 21 members. We have six new members this year. All members and guests present gave an introduction of themselves and the area in which they were representing. B. Huckle requested that all areas be represented at future meetings.
- 4. Overview of Commission Responsibilities:** B. Huckle gave a summary of the Commission's responsibilities and charge. P. Hyer explained that the Commission serves as advisory to the Vice President for Research and reports to University Council. B. Huckle quoted the formal charge of the Commission: To study, formulate, and recommend to the University Council policies and procedures concerning research. Areas for consideration include: sponsored programs, core programs and interdisciplinary research; intellectual properties; animal care and human subjects; indirect costs and overhead; research facilities, centers and institutes, and library resources; liaison with affiliated corporations and institutes; and other matters that affect research.
- 5. Selection of Vice-Chair of Commission on Research for 2009-2010:** B. Huckle explained that candidates for Vice-Chair are non-administrative faculty or staff members of the Commission. B. Huckle announced that there was one nominee, Chema de la Garza, whom was not present, but had confirmed his interest in serving. B. Huckle requested other nominations for the Vice-Chair, but there were none.

D. Dean requested some background information to be shared on the candidate. R. Hall reported that he is a long-time faculty member from Civil Engineering and he recently served at NSF as a program manager. P. Hyer shared that he is a named professor, the *Vecellio Professor of Construction Engineering & Management*.

A motion was made to accept Chema de la Garza as vice chair for 2009-2010. It was seconded and approved.

- 6. Report from Library Committee:** P. Young gave an update on the Library Committee. He thanked the Commission for the letter of support that was sent regarding the anticipated budget cuts that were announced in March. P. Young reported that other groups also sent letters of support and as a result, the Library budget was increased. The Library also saved about \$200,000 through a faculty survey which identified little-used resources. Those resources were canceled, although most are present in other ways such as online databases.

P. Young reported that a study café is currently under construction on the first floor of the library. There is also a new graduate student lounge on the fourth floor. An international student reception was held in April. There is now a dedicated pc for the April 16th archive on the second floor near the reference desk which is one of two in the state that has access to such information.

P. Young stated that he plans to report his proposed white paper on the rampant inflation with the serials crisis and developments in open access by the end of the semester.

- 7. Policy 6200 and the Yale/Duke Settlement:** P. Hyer reported that federal agencies have been systematically auditing various universities for compliance and allocable expenses. She explained that one of the major focal points of these investigations is whether or not faculty members were charging their expenditures/time appropriately to projects and checking for mismatches in effort reporting.

P. Hyer explained that one of the major violations in the Yale case was academic-year faculty charging 100% of their summer time to grants and contracts and yet performing university-related duties such as advising to graduate students who weren't on those contracts; preparing their syllabus for the Fall; attending a professional meeting that may or may not be related to the project; working on a new grant. P. Hyer explained that such tasks are not allocable expenses to a particular grant or contract. P. Hyer explained another category that Yale was responsible for was moving un-related expenditures to grant at the end a project in order to spend the funds. K. Miller reported that Yale is one of about a dozen universities that have been audited.

As a result of these audits, P. Hyer reported the Vice President for Research convened a committee in which T. Inzana is the chair. The goal of the committee is to bring our policies, procedures and practices in place to ensure that we are in compliance with those with the federal contract compliance regulations. P. Hyer reported that the committee has identified one of the areas of vulnerability is our research extended appointment policy. She explained that many of these faculty charge 100% of their time to their academic department during 9 months, and then they change their funding form and charge themselves 100% during the summer. Faculty members with less than 3 months of summer salary often times charge themselves on wages for

1 month of summer, and they may not do that work that month. Therefore, there are mismatches between when people are actually doing the work and also whether they are charged 100%.

P. Hyer shared a revision of Policy 6200 research-extended appointment. She explained that a minor language change was made in the policy to reflect that a faculty member should be charging themselves across the year or however the work actually is expended on the project. Therefore, no one is ever charged 100% to a project and yet is performing ongoing university responsibilities through out the year. By allowing salary savings to accumulate and be carried forward, you can have that appropriate mix of institutional and sponsored funding during the summer. P. Hyer explained another change involved clarification on taking leave while working on a grant or contract. P. Hyer also reported that the payroll office is instituting a bi-weekly payroll for summer 2010. She shared that another piece that the committee aims to install is an FTE allocation so that if you receive 2 months of salary, you can actually be charging it across a longer period of time but at a smaller percent so that you're never 100% during that time frame.

P. Hyer also reported that K. Miller is working on a revision of Policy 3105 Effort Certification policy and plans to present it to the Commission at a later date. The next step she explained would be the educational campaign to host workshops for the Department Heads and fiscal officers as well as faculty about these changes.

P. Hyer requested that the Commission look over the draft revisions in Policy 6200 and report any language changes to her before the next Board of Visitors meeting in November.

- 8. Fralin Life Sciences Institute Charter:** D. Dean reported to the current status of the charter. During the Commission's first review of the charter, concern was expressed regarding the Institute representing a university brand. D. Dean reported that he added a statement under the vision that Fralin is not a brand; and that it does not seek to take control of the research agenda or assume credit for the accomplishments of other entities such as Colleges, Departments, and other units that are also involved in investing in Virginia Tech research initiatives. Part of D. Dean's vision is to empower faculty, departments and other interdisciplinary groups so that they can be successful.

D. Dean stated that Fralin has a limited amount of money to invest and he therefore envisions investing in equipment such as incubators. However the operating cost would be covered by the people that need them. D. Dean would like to utilize the Institute as a tool to recruit across disciplines.

During the last review of the charter, some Commission members felt that the measures in which the institute is reviewed should be further defined. D. Dean stated he did not want to be locked-in to a metric of performance. D. Dean felt that areas such as the grant performance of the people that are invested in, scholarly production, and graduate student recruitment are measurable metrics. D. Dean stated that he has a "Fundamental commitment to excellence; money follows excellence."

D. Dean also reported on changes to the organizational chart of the Institute. He explained that the Center for Health and Medical Education was added to serve as a conduit for Carilion to get in to the system. D. Dean reported that another change was the appointment of the Associate Director for Interdisciplinary Research and Education, Tim Long. His primary responsibility is to recruit across disciplines of Life Sciences.

D. Dean requested a vote from the Commission on the Fralin Life Sciences Institute charter. A motion was made by R. Veilleux and it was seconded, approved and carried. A copy of that charter is attached with these minutes.

9. Virginia Center for Coal & Energy Research (VCCER) Review: S. Muse reported on the 5-year review of the VCCER. W. Lee Daniels, chair of the review committee, reported to her that there were sections of the review missing and that they're hoping to get the last pieces together to finalize their report. It does not appear that it will be ready by our next meeting, therefore, it has been requested that it be ready for our November meeting.

10. Report on Institute/Center organization: R. Hall reported current status of the creation and review of institutes and centers. He explained that the President has taken great interest in the number of institutes that has been created in the last decade and has convened two groups regarding this matter. He refers to the first group as his Academic Council which is comprised of Deans and Vice Presidents; and the second group is comprised of the Institute Directors of the six major university institutes.

R. Hall reported that the goal was to set a direction for how the structure of the institutes will operate in the future and where centers report and who's responsible for putting the infrastructure together.

R. Hall reported after the announcement is made, the Commission will need to review policies 13005 and 3020 and make sure that they are in congruence with each other and how things actually operate.

11. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.