

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
10:00-11:30am | November 7, 2022
130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

Present: Alexander Leonessa (presiding), Kayla Alward, Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Cynthia Devers, Roseanne Foti, Chris Headley, Randy Heflin, Ben Knapp, Rajnish Kumar, Leslie LaConte, Kathy Lu, Kevin McGuire, Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Jonathan Petters, Kevin Pitts, Alexandra Poetter, Steve Rideout, Chloe Robertson, Dan Sui, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

Absent with Notice: Don Hempson, Rob Gourdie, Lydia Patton, Ryan Stewart

Absent: Joshae Gordon

Guests: April Myers, Melinda West

Research and Innovation support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Alex Leonessa called the meeting to order at 10:02am. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 2022

Alex Leonessa noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the [Commission on Research drive](#).

3. Presentation

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff, Office of Research and Innovation, gave an update on the working group for Policies on Centers ([presentation attached](#)). The working group, which includes a wide range of representation from across the university, has initially focused on general goals for centers and for the center policy; on definitions of various kinds of centers; and on the process for establishing a new center. The next steps include garnering feedback from center directors at a town hall scheduled for early December.

4. Other Items

Alex Leonessa gave an update of [CoR Goals / Work Plan](#), reminding the Commission about the status of each of the goals previously discussed:

- Goal 8: Software Procurement was presented to us last month and at this time is considered addressed.
- Goals 1, 5 and 6: The Faculty Senate has determined that these goals are not in the purview of the Commission on Research to write resolutions on; however, we can discuss these topics if the Commission is interested in providing input.

On Goal 1 (Status, structure, and resources for professional development and career advancement for research faculty), Dr. Leonessa asked for input and feedback from members that can be given to the Commission on Faculty Affairs and the Office of Research and Innovation as they work to improve support for research faculty. Dr. Sui reported that the Offices of Research and Innovation and Faculty Affairs are currently working together on this topic. An update from the Office of Research and Innovation will be presented to the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

- Goal 4: Conflict of Commitment topic is being addressed within a working group of the University Council.
- Goal 7: General evaluation of the administrative burden on researchers. An overarching discussion item for the commission.
- Goal 2: Representation of research faculty in shared governance. Alexandra Poetter is leading the working group to look further into the membership eligibility that is outlined in the [Faculty Senate Constitution](#) and work on a resolution. Dr. Leonessa pointed out that it appears that the Faculty Senate Constitution does not currently allow Research Faculty to serve in the Faculty Senate, even when affiliated with a department. He will follow up with the President and Vice President of the Faculty Senate to confirm that.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:05am.