

**Minutes**  
**COMMISSION ON RESEARCH**  
**3:30-5:00pm | March 2, 2023**  
**130 Burruss Hall and Zoom**

**Present:** Alexander Leonessa (presiding), Kayla Award, Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Cynthia Devers, Roseanne Foti, Ronald Gibbons, Rob Gourdie, Chris Headley, Randy Heflin, Donald Hempson, Rajnish Kumar, Leslie LaConte, Kevin McGuire, Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Lydia Patton, Jonathan Petters, Kevin Pitts, Alexandra Poetter, Chloe Robertson, Ryan Stewart, Dan Sui, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

**Absent with Notice:** Ben Knapp, Kathy Lu, Steve Rideout

**Absent:** Alize Ashraf

**Guests:** Amanda Covey, Stefan Duma, April Myers, Eleanor Nelsen, Erin Poff, Melinda West

**Research and Innovation support:** Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Alex Leonessa called the meeting to order at 3:31pm. 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 February 2023**

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

**3. Presentations**

Stefan Duma, Executive Director, Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, gave a presentation on the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute 5-Year Review ([attached](#)). Prior to the meeting, commission members were provided with the final report submitted by the FBRI 5-Year Review Committee ([attached](#)). At the conclusion of the presentation, the floor opened for discussion. A member asked whether the committee had any recommendations for increased professional development for graduate students, and Dr. Duma clarified that this was included in recommendation six. The commission also discussed the importance of planning beyond five years and ensuring excellence for the next 50 years, in line with the Beyond Boundaries vision. The Commission voted to approve all of the recommendations.

Amanda Covey, Faculty Support and Recognitions Specialist, provided a presentation on Faculty Awards and Recognition ([attached](#)). Covey described the strategy and support that she

provides faculty and leadership across the university in understanding award requirements and timelines and identifying potential competitive faculty and nominators based on data from Academic Analytics. She asked for commission support and engagement to identify faculty and awards, share expertise, identify external nominators, and share nominees. Covey also emphasized the importance of creating an awards culture by celebrating and supporting efforts to recognize excellence.

#### **4. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:14pm