

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
3:30-5:00pm | April 13, 2023
130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

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

Absent with Notice: Roseanne Foti, Ryan Stewart, Lijuan Yuan

Absent: Alize Ashraf

Guests: April Myers, Trudy Riley, Kamala Upadhyaya, 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 March 2023

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

3. Presentations

Jonathan Petters, Assistant Director, Data Management & Curation Services, University Libraries, gave a presentation on Research Data Curation Services provided by the Libraries' data repository services ([attached](#)). Dr. Petters described how the University Libraries have expanded the Virginia Tech data repository to help faculty share their research data to meet journal and sponsor requirements. He emphasized that this repository is for open-access data, and that restricted data is more appropriate for other repositories. Finally, Dr. Petters requested feedback on how best to increase researcher awareness of these resources widely across campus.

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff, Research and Innovation, gave an update on Center Policies ([attached](#)). Prior to the meeting, commission members were provided with a draft of the updated Policy 13005 for review. The working group on center

policies has largely completed their work to streamline and update Policies 13005 and 3020, with the anticipation of introducing the revised policy through governance in the fall. She highlighted many of the major changes to the Policy, including strengthened and consistent criteria for center establishment, review, and renewal; explanation of compliance expectations for the policy; simplification of processes and preference for common principles; increased flexibility and decreased duplication of reporting requirements; expectations for review and approval for substantial change; simplification of termination processes; and new categories of centers, to include “sponsored centers.”

Elizabeth White, Program and Business Manager, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, discussed obstacles with invoice management within the Office of Sponsored Programs, and Trudy Riley, Associate Vice President for the Office of Sponsored Programs, and Kamala Upadhyaya, Senior Director of Post Award joined to discuss these challenges. Alexandra Poetter and Alexander Leonessa confirmed that these challenges were being felt more broadly across campus. Riley described many of the challenges that Post Award is experiencing due to a recent restructuring and staffing challenges, and described their strategies for near-term improvements as the restructuring process continues to show dividends.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm.