

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
3:30-5:00pm | May 4, 2023
130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

Present: Alexander Leonessa (presiding), Kayla Alward, Thomas Archibald (for Don Hempson), Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Rob Gourdie, David Haak (for Steven Rideout), Chris Headley, Randy Heflin, Ben Knapp, Rajnish Kumar, Leslie LaConte, Kathy Lu, Kevin McGuire, Laurel Miner (for Dan Sui), Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Lydia Patton, Jonathan Petters, Kevin Pitts, Alexandra Poetter, Chloe Robertson, Ryan Stewart, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

Absent with Notice: Cynthia Devers, Roseanne Foti

Absent: Alize Ashraf, Ronald Gibbons

Guests: Angela Correa, Marc DeBonis, Carla Finkielstein, Scott Midkiff, Chris Shively

Research and Innovation support: Kim Borkowski

Alex Leonessa called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. 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 April 2023

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

3. Presentations

Alexandra Poetter, Associate Director, Program Management, Virginia Tech National Security Institute, provided an update on Representation of Research Faculty in Shared Governance ([attached](#)). She reminded the committee of the goal to ensure that research faculty, excluding postdoctoral associates, should be represented on Faculty Senate, regardless of their organizational structure. Faculty Senate leadership is open to adding two seats for research faculty not housed within academic departments, and that a change to the Faculty Senate bylaws would be sufficient. There remain open questions regarding how research faculty affiliations in academic departments, but whose appointment is through other organizations, should be represented. The working group studying this representation requires additional data from the Office of Research and Innovation to operationalize these concepts in the near-term. The COR agreed to continue this work in the next academic year.

Scott Midkiff, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, gave a presentation on Google Service Changes at Virginia Tech ([attached](#)). Dr. Midkiff began with an overview of the many changes throughout the Division of IT, of which the Google Service Changes are only one. Google has recently modified its model for charging institutions of higher education for their workspace and storage services, and many universities are reevaluating their support of those services. He described the steering committee that guided the review of the available options, and the decision makers that approved of the path forward. The primary changes are: discontinuation of support for gmail and google calendar, and limitation of storage in google shared drives. The university will continue to support the equivalent of these services in the Microsoft ecosystem. An added benefit to this change will be the increase in calendaring efficiency and security benefits of using one service for email and calendaring.

4. Announcements

Carla Finkielstein, Scientific Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, was welcomed and introduced as the incoming 2023-2024 Commission on Research Chair.

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff, Research and Innovation, gave an update regarding final actions made following the reviews of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, and of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute which completes the requirements of these reviews, per policy 13005. Commission on Research members were provided statements regarding final actions from Dr. Sui, prior to the meeting. Additionally, Dr. Miner announced that the recent review of Dr. Knapp, Executive Director of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology, concluded successfully and resulted in his reappointment.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:56pm.