

Commission on Research
September 14, 2023, 3:30-5:00 pm
Zoom

Present: Carla Finkelstein (presiding), Thomas Archibald, Ella Atkins, Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Scott Case, Cynthia Devers, Ronald Gibbons, William Headley, Randy Heflin, Ben Knapp, Elizabeth McLain, Barry Miller, Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Corinne Noirot, Albert Pan, Jonathan Petters, Kevin Pitts, Alexandra Poetter, Ryan Stewart, Dan Sui, Quinn Thomas, Elizabeth White, Amanda Wolfe, Lijuan Yuan

Absent with Notice: Rolf Mueller

Absent: Daniel Pauly, Yohan Sequeira

Guests: Lori Buchanon, April Goode, Dee Harris, Lisa M Lee, Kim Linkous, Ginny Pannabecker, Lauren Pollard, Menah Pratt, Julie Ross, Melinda West

Research and Innovation support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Carla Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of May 4, 2023

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

3. Presentations

Carla Finkelstein summarized the proposed goals anticipated for the Commission on Research to address during the 2023-2024 academic year ([attached](#)), which include:

- Revision of Policy 13040: Virginia Tech Human Subjects Research Policy;
- Representation of Research Faculty in the Faculty Senate;
- Revision to and merging of Policy 13005: Centers and Institutes: Establishment, Governance and Programmatic Oversight and Policy 3020: Centers and University Institutes: Financial and Administrative Policy and Procedures;
- Feedback on the [Faculty Senate Statement on Responsible Use of Research Metrics](#); and
- Revision of Policy 13035: Virginia Tech Animal Research Policy

Lauren Pollard, Director of Strategic Affairs and Julie Ross, Dean, College of Engineering, and Beyond Boundaries Co-chair, led a discussion on the [Beyond Boundaries Vision](#) to gather input and feedback as part of the effort to explore potential opportunities for realignment with the realities of the world and current initiatives of Virginia Tech ([attached](#)). COR member comments included the need for flexibility, speed and agility in processes; the importance of expanding employment mechanisms for faculty without terminal degrees; among others.

Leanna Blevins, Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences Education and Student Affairs, Lisa M. Lee, Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation and Director of Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance, and Ginny Pannabecker, Assistant Dean and Director, Research Collaboration and Engagement,

University Libraries, jointly presented to the commission on the VT TRAIL program – Transformational Allies for Inclusive Leadership. Dr. Blevins presented [*A Framework for Advancing Anti-Racism Strategy on Campus*](#), a document outlining how to promote anti-racism at colleges and universities. She requested that COR members read the framework and consider how COR members and the Commission itself could adopt at least one of the practices in the document. In addition, she requested that members share the document with their respective departments, institutes, and colleges with the same goal.

4. Other Items

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff of Research and Innovation, requested participants for a half-day working session to examine the structure of Virginia Tech's research faculty, and how well that structure is supporting the university's research mission and the development and engagement of faculty in those ranks. Scott Case, Chris Headley, Barry Miller, and Luke Neurauter volunteered to participate in the working session. Miner promised to update the Commission following the working session.

5. Announcements

Dan Sui, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, gave a brief update on university efforts related to research, including the IT Transformation and Google and Microsoft changes; Top 100 Global status; and International Engagement strategy. Dr. Sui promised to continue to update the Commission and request their feedback as these efforts evolve.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 pm.