

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
October 12, 2023 | 3:30-5:00 pm
Zoom

Present: Randy Heflin (presiding), Ella Atkins, Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Scott Case, Cynthia Devers, Ronald Gibbons, William Headley, Elizabeth McLain, Rolf Mueller, Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Corinne Noiro, Yuchin Pan, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Ryan Stewart, Dan Sui, Quinn Thomas, Holly Williams (for Ben Knapp), Amanda Wolfe, Lijuan Yuan

Absent with Notice: Thomas Archibald, Carla Finkelstein, Barry Miller, Elizabeth White

Absent: Daniel Pauly, Kevin Pitts, Yohan Sequeira

Guests: Barbara DeCausey, Dee Harris, Melinda West

Research and Innovation support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Randy Heflin called the meeting to order at 3:33 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 and posting of minutes of September 14, 2023

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

3. New Business

COR Resolution 2023-24A

Resolution to Revise Policy 13040: Virginia Tech Human Subjects Research Policy

Barbara DeCausey, Director, Human Research Protection Program, presented the resolution for first reading. DeCausey provided an overview of proposed changes ([attached](#)), which were related to: changes to federal regulations and the common rule; improved alignment with the policy pyramid to move procedures out of the policy; and general changes for clarity. COR member comments included the suggestion to assign generic names to procedural documents, asking for clarification on the definition of cognitive disabilities for vulnerable populations, and confirming that IRB training is current with the revised policy.

COR Resolution 2023-24B

Resolution to Revise Policies 13005 and 3020 on Center and Institute Establishment, Oversight, and Governance and Financial and Administrative Procedures

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President for Research and Innovation and Chief of Staff, presented the resolution for first reading. Miner provided an overview of the proposed changes ([attached](#)), which were intended to streamline, clarify, and de-duplicate the policies while ensuring that centers are effective and well-supported. Miner summarized the main changes to

the policy, which included: creating a new list of criteria for establishing a new center; clarifying that only centers/institutes created through policy may use those terms; requiring five year reviews to result in updated charter with clear metrics; allowing five year reviews of director and center to be combined; establishing concept of a 'sponsored center'; eliminating policy 3020, while incorporating its requirements into 13005; allowing centers to be categorized under more than one mission line; and where possible, clarifying using tables, shifts to principles rather than procedures. COR member comments included questions regarding allowing co-directors for centers; the letter of intent requirements; and the requirements for stakeholders committees for college-level centers.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:26pm.