

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
3:30 – 5:00 pm | February 8, 2024
Zoom

Present: Carla Finkelstein (presiding), Thomas Archibald, Ella Atkins, Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Scott Case, Ronald Gibbons, Sarah Greger, Randy Heflin, Ben Knapp, Rolf Mueller, Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Corinne Noirot, Yuchin Pan, Daniel Pauly, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Ryan Stewart, Dan Sui, Quinn Thomas, AK Ward (for Cynthia Devers), Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

Absent with Notice: Barry Miller

Absent: William Headley, Didar Islam, Elizabeth McLain, Kevin Pitts, Amanda Wolfe

Guests: Rocky Clancy, Lisa M. Lee, Justin Lemkul, April Myers, Kory Trott, Melinda West

Research and Innovation support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Carla Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Approval of and posting of minutes of December 7, 2023

Carla Finkelstein noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the Commission on Research Sharepoint.

3. Presentations

Justin Lemkul, Chair, Commission on Faculty Affairs, provided an update on the Commission on Faculty Affairs's 2023-24 goal related to the representation of research faculty in faculty senate governance. Lemkul presented a plan for each thematic institute to elect research faculty to the faculty senate, the number of which would be determined by a proportionate baseline representation. There was discussion around the appropriate number of representatives for research faculty, since the proportional number (approximately six) is larger than that discussed last academic year (two). In addition, there was discussion about how to best represent research faculty who are neither in colleges nor thematic institutes, and whether at-large representation among all extra-collegiate research faculty would be an appropriate approach. The Commission agreed to provide written feedback for CFA's consideration.

Lisa M. Lee, Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Director, Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance, presented on [Innovative Research and Ethical Impact](#), a

National Science Foundation Institutional Transformation grant awarded to Virginia Tech ([presentation](#)). This project will focus on infusing ethics across all levels of the university's research and innovation enterprise through engagement of administrative and faculty leaders and use of faculty expertise in a one to two semester long immersive program. Research questions that will be addressed are ethical competence, ethical confidence, and ethical climates - the relationship between them and the effects of training. Through this engagement, the project anticipates building a better research integrity program to ensure that research results better serve societal interests.

4. Other Items

Dan Sui, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation noted that the research community was well-represented in the President's State of the University Address. Highlights included showcasing our seven research institutes, announcing the VT Global Distinction Steering Committee, and providing a progress update on the Northern Virginia Steering Committee.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:43pm.