

**Minutes**  
**COMMISSION ON RESEARCH**  
**3:30 – 5:00 pm | March 14, 2024**  
**Zoom**

CoR Documents available to CoR members in SharePoint Team Drive: [COR FY 2023-2024](#)

**Present:** Carla Finkielstein (presiding), Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Scott Case, Cynthia Devers, Randy Heflin, Ben Knapp, Elizabeth McLain, Barry Miller, Rolf Mueller, Luke Neurauter, Corinne Noiro, Yuchin Pan, Daniel Pauly, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Ryan Stewart, Dan Sui, Quinn Thomas, Lijuan Yuan

**Absent with Notice:** Thomas Archibald, Ella Atkins, William Headley, Dane Skow

**Absent:** Ronald Gibbons, Sarah Greger, Didar Islam, Kevin Pitts, Elizabeth White, Amanda Wolfe

**Guests:** Dee Harris

**Research and Innovation support:** Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Carla Finkielstein 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 passed.

**2. Approval of and posting of minutes of February 8, 2023**

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

**3. Presentations**

Albert Pan, Associate Professor, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, provided an overview of the Macromolecules Innovation Institute (MII) 5-Year Review process. The review committee, appointed by the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, is charged to review MII based on policy 13005. The committee is currently in the data-gathering stage, which includes reviewing relevant center documents, conducting an interview with the director, holding stakeholder interview sessions, and conducting surveys for feedback. Information from these activities will be used to draft a report for factual review by the director, then will be finalized. With the current timeline, the review committee will present the report to the Commission on Research at the May 2 meeting for approval, then will be submitted to the director and center administrator for action and wrap-up.

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff, Research and Innovation and Randy Heflin, Senior Associate Vice President, Research and Innovation discussed the next

steps for center policy and naming discussion. Laurel noted that Policy 13005 is nearly finalized with a few administrative tasks remaining and final signature. With the new policy in place, the Office of Research and Innovation will be conducting a review of the centers database which will include having conversations with colleges and institutes about various changes to the policy, ask them to help us clean up the current database, and initiate efforts to increase compliance with the policy. Regarding center names, Laurel started the conversation by pointing out that in the revised policy, the use and requirements of the terms “center” and “institute” is clearly stated. Randy Heflin then opened the floor for discussion to talk about what the commission’s sense is on how important it is for us to rigorously follow, is there a grandfathering piece to it, and to what extent would we make exceptions? Barry Miller shared a Commission on Research study on research development from 2019, which included a landscape analysis of centers at other institutions ([document](#)). Participants encouraged flexibility in the use of alternative terms like consortium, academy, initiative, laboratory, and group.

Carla Finkelstein opened the floor to CoR members to provide comments on the [CFA 2023-2024E: Resolution to Endorse The Statement On The Responsible Use Of Research Metrics At The University Level](#). The commission generally supported the statement, especially the desire for flexibility and transparency when using metrics to assess research productivity. However, some language likely needs to be altered for consistency and clarity, to ensure maximum use of the Statement. The commission will provide written feedback to the Commission on Faculty Affairs.

#### **4. Other Items**

Jonathan Petters, Associate Director, Data Management and Curation Services at the University Libraries, shared a summary of CoR member input he has received on research data storage needs ([presentation](#)).

#### **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:36pm.