

MINUTES

Commission on Research
September 11, 2025
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Zoom

Present: Jan Helge Bøhn (presiding), Gibran Ali, Thomas Archibald, Tom Bell, Rebecca Cockrum, Joseph Gaeddert, Dan Givens, Randy Heflin, Ehren Hill, Daniel Hindman, Laurel Miner for Dan Sui, Corinne Noirot, Albert Pan, Daniel Pauly, Jorge Reyes, Connie Stovall, Michelle Theus, Quinn Thomas, Stella Volpe, Jeff Walling

Absent with Notice: LaTawnya Burleson, Kirk Cameron, Alberto Cano, Andrew Krum, Caitlin Woodson

Absent: Ronald Gibbons

Guests: Barbara DeCausey, Iris Jenkins, April Myers, Melinda West

Jan Helge Bøhn 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. Motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of May 8, 2025.

Jan Helge Bøhn noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the CoR SharePoint site.

3. Presentation

Iris Jenkins, Director, Research Integrity and Consultation Program, presented on overview of changes to Policy 13020, Virginia Tech's Policy on Misconduct. Specifically, revisions were made to provide clarity, transparency, improve processes and to align with the policy pyramid. Some of significant changes include extension of timelines for inquiry and investigation, expansion of documentation requirements, stronger protections for respondent and complainant; as well as clarification of definitions.

4. Other Items

- CoR 2025-2026 Workplan. Bøhn presented the Commission on Research workplan for 2025-2026, which includes the following proposed goals:
 - Five-year review of two institutes. The commission will be asked to vote on the question of accepting the review report on the (1) Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science in Fall 2025 and the (2) Virginia Tech Transportation Institute in Spring 2026.
 - Global Distinction Fellows In support of Virginia Tech Global Distinction, envision and design fellowships to bring globally distinguished faculty to campus. The overall idea of the fellowship is to invite internationally renowned faculty to campus to grow

collaborative research, enhance scholarly network and reputation, and enhance graduate education. There was extensive discussion amongst members with several common themes of incentivization, reciprocation, marketing efforts, funding sources, collaboration opportunities, and reputation. Bøhn asked members to contact him directly if they are interested in being part of subcommittee to further explore the opportunity to bring internationally distinguished faculty to Virginia Tech.

- Enhancing Postdocs and research faculty participation. While there has been progress over the past few years to provide more opportunities for research faculty and postdocs to participate in governance, including on Faculty Senate, there are still gaps and opportunities. In spring 2025, Jorge Reyes presented to the commission a potential path forward through create a standing committee within the Commission on Research. The goal this year is to further pursue this issue and help establish a presence in governance for postdocs. In addition, while research faculty have seats on the faculty senate, their funding model usually does not include time for service, thus limiting their full participation in governance. In closing, Bøhn reemphasized the goal of removing barriers and optimizing structure to enhance both postdoc and research faculty participation in governance.
- Changes to faculty handbook to reflect changes to research faculty structure. Laurel Miner proposed adding an additional goal regarding the research faculty restructuring project that the Office of Research and Innovation is currently working on, which will likely require changes to the faculty handbook. The commission was in agreement to include this in the workplan.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 pm.