

MINUTES

Commission on Research December 11, 2025 3:30-5:00pm Zoom

Present: Jan Helge Bøhn (presiding), Gibran Ali, Thomas Archibald, Tom Bell, Yancey Crawford, Joseph Gaeddert, Dan Givens, Randy Heflin, Ehren Hill, Daniel Hindman, Andrew Krum, Laurel Miner (for Dan Sui), Corinne Noiro, Albert Pan, Daniel Pauly, Jorge Reyes, Manish Singal, Michelle Theus, Stella Volpe, Jeffrey Walling, Caitlin Woodson

Absent with Notice: Kirk Cameron, Rebecca Cockrum, Connie Stovall, Quinn Thomas

Absent: LaTawyna Burleson, Alberto Cano, Ronald Gibbons, Ishveen Kaur, Atharva Shashank Kokane, Daniel Lobree

Guests: Kimberly Borkowski, Thiviya Karuppasamy, Stacy King, April Myers

Jan Helge Bøhn called the meeting to order at 3:33pm. 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 November 13, 2025.

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

<https://virginiatech.sharepoint.com/sites/UniversityGovernance/COR>

3. New Business

COR 2025-26A Resolution to Revise Research Faculty Non-Professorial Rank Structure in Faculty Handbook

Laurel Miner presented COR 2025-26A for first reading. The intent of the resolution is to combine the ranks of research associate, senior research associate, research scientist, and senior research scientist into a single rank of research professional faculty with appropriate levels and specializations referenced through a link to a website, designed to provide a flexible, predictable career structure for research faculty in sections 2.1.1.3, 6.1, and 6.2 in the Faculty Handbook. Laurel opened the floor for discussion. Questions included clarification of the rationale of moving to ranks, and whether there are parallels elsewhere in the handbook to the proposed structure. To both questions, Laurel pointed to parallels with AP faculty, which also has a single rank and a more detailed structure developed outside of the handbook. In addition, excluding definitions of the levels in the handbook allows for flexibility of definitions during the implementation stage.

4. Reports

- Global Distinction Fellowships – Jan Helge Bøhn: The Global Distinction Fellowships Workgroup prepared an interim report that defined fundamental expectations, nomination and sponsorship guidelines, program funding suggestions, duration of the fellowship; as well as

examples of interaction with the Virginia Tech community, and compensation. Jan Helge opened the floor for discussion. Topics included personal experience of a fellowship or similar program, funding sources and expectations, and sharing ideas of eminent scholars whom COR members might want to invite for the proposed Global Distinction Fellowship program.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:02pm.