

# MINUTES

## Commission on Research

March 5, 2026

3:30 – 5:00pm

Zoom

**Present** – Jan Helge Bøhn (presiding), Gibran Ali, Tom Archibald, Thomas Bell, Kirk Cameron, Rebecca Cockrum, Yancey Crawford, Joseph Gaeddert, Ronald Gibbons, Dan Givens, Randy Heflin, Daniel Hindman, Thiviya Karuppasamy (for Atharva Shoshank Kokane), Andrew Krum, Daniel Lobree, Laurel Miner (for Dan Sui), Corinne Noirot, Daniel Pauly, Jorge Reyes, Connie Stovall, Quinn Thomas, Stella Volpe, Jeffrey Walling

**Absent with Notice:** Ehren Hill, Caitlin Woodson

**Absent:** LaTawnya Burleson, Alberto Cano, Ishveen Kaur, Albert Pan, Manisha Singal, Michelle Theus

**Guests:** Kim Borkowski, Alan Fellers, Amy Hogan, Cristen Jandreau, Stacy King, Sharon Kurek, April Myers, Karen Roberto

Jan Helge Bøhn called the meeting to order at 3:35pm. 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 February 12, 2026.

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

### 3. Presentations

#### Overview of Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment

Karen Roberto, Executive Director, Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, provided an overview of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE). As one of Virginia Tech's four investment institutes, Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, ISCE's mission is to enhance Virginia Tech's capacity and status in the social sciences by catalyzing innovative, interdisciplinary, and translational research and scholarship addressing critical individual and social concerns impacting the lives of people and places in Virginia, nationally and across the globe. Karen highlighted ISCE's thematic areas, support programs, activities and strategies; as well as Global Distinction outputs and impacts of faculty funding, proposals submitted and funded, awards received, and publications. The institute works across the university to support a variety of programs, projects, associated centers, and serves as the administrative home to three research centers. Additionally, ISCE has established three networks which offers faculty the opportunity for membership, networking, and collaborating in in the areas of policy and policy-related research and practice, emerging technology and governance, and whole health. Karen also highlighted impacts of ISCE's commitment to advancing global distinction through addressing complex individual, community, and societal challenges through high impact interdisciplinary research and scholarship.

## **Virginia Tech's Conflict of Interest and Commitment Program**

Sharon Kurek, Vice President for Audit, Risk and Compliance and Chief Risk Officer and Cristen Jandreau, Director, Research Conflict of Interest Program presented on the university's existing Conflict of Interest and Commitment (COI/C) program, requirements and benchmarking, and the new plan to implement a centralized, routinized process of disclosing conflicts of interest and commitment for covered employees. This initiative will strengthen compliance, reduce individual and institutional risk and leverage technology, while enhancing communication, training and collaboration and providing more clear, consistent and simplified guidance and support. Over the next year, key milestones of the project begin with awareness and communication, policy and process development in Spring 2026, technology implementation and training in Summer 2026, pilot rollout in Fall 2026, with a full rollout and implementation in January 2027. The floor was opened for discussion on making the COI/C program as simple as possible with the suggestion of having a single dashboard for trainings, requirements, etc. at the university.

### **4. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:41pm.