

Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

10 February 2022

3:30pm-5:00pm

130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

CoR Documents available to CoR members in Team Drive: [CoR 2021](#)

Present: Jeffrey Alwang (presiding), Montasir Abbas, Sheryl Ball, Isabel Bradburn, Christina Chuong, Robert Gourdie, William Headley, Randy Heflin, Donald Hempson, Matt Holt, Ran Jin, Leslie LaConte, Alexander Leonessa, Kevin McGuire, Cristina Miliano, Luke Neurauter, Tasia Persson, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Karen Roberto, Manisha Singal, Dan Sui, Stephanie Trout, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

OVPRI Support: Kim Borkowski

Absent with notice: Ronald Gibbons, Lydia Patton, Robin Queen

Guests: Vince Baranauskas, Lori Buchanan, Charles de Souza, Cristen Jandreau, Jack Leff (for Lydia Patton), Lisa M. Lee, Mary Potter, Chris Smith

Jeff Alwang called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 9, 2021

Jeff Alwang noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the [Commission on Research drive](#). He reminded members to review the minutes and provide edits; no comment is taken as approval.

3. New Business

Conflict of Interest. Cristen Jandreau and Lisa M. Lee provided a presentation ([attached](#)) outlining suggested changes to Policy 13010, Individual Conflicts of Interest and Commitment. These proposed revisions are the result of a task force charged by President Sands to recommend best practices for university-wide conflict of interest (COI) procedures to fully protect the university and its employees while streamlining and clarifying processes and responsibilities. The primary changes to the policy include: extracting conflict of commitment, clarifying language, and removing procedures. Conflict of commitment requirements, while removed from Policy 13010, remains in force in the faculty handbook. The accompanying revisions to policy and resolution were distributed after the meeting, as first reading.

4. Presentation

Research Data Infrastructure. Mary Potter, director of the Privacy and Research Data Protection Program, provided an update on research data infrastructure ([attached](#)). This new infrastructure, co-sponsored by Research and Innovation and by the Division of Information Technology, will provide researchers with a centrally supported and managed research data lab and governance infrastructure designed to advance Virginia Tech research capabilities and meet or exceed sponsor requirements for both openness and security. This infrastructure, now in its first phase of design, is intended to be researcher-driven and optional to use.

5. Other Items

Research Faculty Update. Ran Jin, Associate Professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering, and CoR co-chair, provided an update on the activity of the research faculty working group. The working group has developed a proposal for two faculty senate seats, and is soliciting feedback from key stakeholders. The resolution will be coming to the Commission on Research when it is ready.

Shared Governance. Ran Jin, Associate Professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering, and CoR co-chair, provided an update on the changes in shared governance briefed to the Commission by Bob Hickok in fall 2021. He highlighted that in the future all Commission on Research resolutions would be subject to vote by the Faculty Senate.

CGP&P Resolution. Jeff Alwang shared the CGPS&P Resolution 2021-2022D, Resolution to Institute a Living Wage for Graduate Students. The resolution had its first reading to the University Council on February 7, 2022. Alwang requested the Commissioner's feedback on the resolution so that he could best represent the Commission in his vote on the University Council.

Research and Innovation Update. Dan Sui, Senior Vice President and Chief Research and Innovation Officer, made introductions to new team members and provided general updates for the Research and Innovation office. In particular, he introduced Chris Smith as the leader of the new Postdoctoral Affairs Office, as well as the appointment of Randy Heflin as the Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, who will be an ex officio member of the Commission. Sui also announced additional changes to the structure of the office.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 PM.

*Please take note of the 2021-2022 meetings listed below which will all take place in 130 Burruss Hall and virtually, from 3:30-5:00 pm, on the 2nd Thursday of each month (with a few exceptions to accommodate academic year events or breaks)

2021-2022

- March 3* (1st Thurs/month)
- April 14
- May 5* (1st Thurs/month)