

Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

14 April 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), Regina Allen (for Stephanie Trout), Monte Abbas, Sheryl Ball, Isabel Bradburn, Christina Chuong, Ronald Gibbons, Rob Gourdie, Chris Headley, Randy Heflin, Don Hempson, Ran Jin, Leslie LaConte, Alex Leonessa, Kevin McGuire, Luke Neurauter, Tasia Persson, Jon Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Karen Roberto, Manisha Singal, Dan Sui, Pamela VandeVord (for Julia Ross), Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

Research and Innovation Support: Laurel Miner

Absent with notice: Cristina Miliano, Lydia Patton, Matt Holt

Guests: Vince Baranauskas, David Crotts, Lori Buchanan

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 March 2022

Jeff Alwang noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the [Commission on Research drive](#).

3. New Business

ISCE 5-Year Review Report

Alex Leonessa presented the results of the five year review of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment ([attached](#)). The review, conducted in accordance with Policy 13005, had four primary recommendations:

- Overwhelmingly, the most common recommendation provided by faculty and stakeholders was that ISCE has a comparatively small budget and would benefit from additional resources from the University.
- Faculty and stakeholders from key departments around campus are well aware of the importance of ISCE to Virginia Tech's culture, the research enterprise, and impact on regional communities. However, the committee concluded that if additional resources become available for ISCE, steps could be taken to better communicate its opportunities and programs to the University community. Such communications will not only grow the positive reputation of ISCE, but will also help the University community regularly see the tangible benefits of the investment institute model more generally.
- Outstanding leadership is one of the ingredients for ISCE's ongoing success and positive reputation around campus. Looking to the future, ISCE will benefit from a succession plan for its Executive Director and leadership team to ensure continued long-term excellence.
- ISCE has been instrumental in advancing University-wide initiatives such as the Destination Areas. ISCE should continue to position itself for success by aligning with other emerging initiatives and opportunities, both internally (e.g., Research Frontiers, Innovation Campus, etc.) and externally (e.g., major funding initiatives through NSF, the infrastructure bill, etc.).

The Commission voted to approve all of the recommendations.

4. Presentation

IT Transformation David Crotts, Interim Director, IT Transformation Program Office, presented an overview of the IT transformation underway ([attached](#)). This transformation project, spurred by interest from the Board of Visitors and guided by an assessment from Deloitte, will improve and align IT capabilities to meet the strategic needs of Virginia Tech students, faculty, researchers, and staff. The transformation is currently focused on three projects: establishing a University-wide IT governance model; standardizing job classifications for IT staff across Virginia Tech; and enforcing the CIS IG2 minimum for systems processing sensitive data. The timeline, which currently is envisioned to complete in FY25, may be accelerated due to feedback from the Board.

5. Old Business

Research Faculty Update Ran Jin updated the Commission on the status of the research faculty representation project. The working group has developed a draft proposal, which will soon be shared with research faculty on campus for feedback. It is expected that this work will continue in the 2021-2022 academic year.

2022-2023 Business Jeff Alwang asked members to consider what topics should be on the agenda for the Commission to examine in the next academic year. Some topics suggested

included: research with human subjects; ability to compensate human subject research participants; and mid-career proposal development support.

Future Commission on Research Leadership Members were asked to consider leadership for the Commission on Research. Jeff Alwang, chair, will not be on the Commission next year, and it is possible that Ran Jin, vice chair, will also not be on the Commission. The recent revision to university governance may mean that the chair of the Commission will be determined by Faculty Senate in the next year.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 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

- May 5* (1st Thurs/month)