

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

6 May 2021

Virtual

3:30pm-5:00pm

Present: Raj Bhagavathula (presiding), Jeff Alwang, Harry Dorn, Jeff Hickman, Matt Holt, Ran Jin, Leslie LaConte, Kevin McGuire, Cristina Miliano, Tasia Persson, John Phillips, Robin Queen, Manisha Singal, Stephanie Trout, Lijuan Yuan, Elizabeth Grant, Karen Roberto, Dan Sui

OVPRI Support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Absent: Hypatia Alexandria, Donald Hempson, Emily Warwick

Guests: Lori Buchanan, Eric Paterson, Wayne Scales (for Julia Ross), Barbara Starling

Raj Bhagavathula called the meeting to order at 3:32PM. 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 April 8, 2021

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

3. New Business

Vice Chair of Commission on Research Election

Raj Bhagavathula informed the committee that Ran Jin expressed interest in the Vice Chair position and made a motion to vote. A vote was taken on the motion and Ran Jin was elected unanimously.

VT Software Procurement Process

Jonathan Petters brought forward concerns from his library colleagues regarding the VT software procurement process. Specifically, topics of concern and discussion included time and resource inefficiencies, as well as lack of transparency of the process ([attached](#)).

National Security Institute Charter

Dan Sui provided a brief overview of the multi-step process for establishing a new institute in accordance with [policy 13005](#), where we currently are in that process, and what the commission's responsibility is.

Eric Paterson, Interim Executive Director, Hume Center, gave a presentation on the overview of the National Security Institute ([attached](#)).

Raj Bhagavathula opened the floor for questions and discussion on the NSI charter ([attached](#)). Focus of the conversation was on recommendations for revision of the charter to ensure: clear specifications of objectives, sources of support, and criteria for future performance assessment. Additional discussion took place on recruitment of scholars, research faculty, and security-related questions.

Raj Bhagavathula asked for a motion to recommend to the Provost to authorize the National Security Institute under the terms specified. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:04pm.