

Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

9 September 2021
3:30pm-5:00pm
130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

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

Present: Jeff Alwang (presiding), Sheryl Ball, Isabel Bradburn, Christina Chuong, Ronald Gibbons, Robert Gourdie, Chris Headley, Don Hempson, Matt Holt, Ran Jin, Leslie Laconte, Alex Leonessa, Kevin McGuire, Lydia Patton, Tasia Persson, Jonathan Petters, Karen Roberto, Manisha Singal, Dan Sui, Stephanie Trout, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

OVPRI Support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Absent with notice: Robin Queen

Absent: Jeff Hickman

Guests: Bob Hicok, Mary Potter, Ellen Plummer, Melinda West, April Myers

Jeff Alwang called the meeting to order at 3.31pm. 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 May 6, 2021

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

3. New Business

Vice President for Research and Innovation Update

Dan Sui informed the commission of the President's renewed goal for Virginia Tech to become a member of the [Association of American Universities \(AAU\)](#). Dan provided a synoptic overview of the AAU and phase one and phase two research metrics criteria required to be invited as a member. To become an AAU member, Dan emphasized that we will continue to improve key indicators, such as broader impacts of research, increase in citation rates, National Academy of Science (NAS) and National Academy of Engineering (NAE) membership, and ranking of doctoral programs; as well as having a robust postdoctoral scholars program.

Dan Sui also provided an update on the progress being made on Research Frontiers.

1. Health Frontier: first faculty member has been hired at Children's National Research & Innovation Campus. We are also planning for a potential new strategic partnership with Salem VA Medical Center focused on Whole Health.

2. Security Frontier: The National Security Institute will launch this year and will broadly define security at VT.
3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Frontier: Over the summer the Sanghani Center received a \$10M gift and the launch of a new center next spring will focus on the future of work related to AI.
4. Quantum Frontier: An interdisciplinary center on quantum engineering science will launch later this semester.

Priorities for AY21-22

1. Committee on Data Security and Sharing

Jonathan Petters shared with the committee current efforts being made to improve research data management and the intent to form a standing Research Data Governance Committee. Jonathan outlined why data management is integral to research, why improvements need to be made, and identified external drivers and internal initiatives for change to research data management ([attached](#)).

Mary Potter emphasized the need for a committee and that the goal of the governance group would be to provide infrastructure and guidance to researchers on storing, analyzing and sharing research data.

2. Research Faculty Representation in Governance

Ran Jin brought forward the topic of research faculty representation within the governance system, including a brief background on how and why this topic is being discussed ([attached](#)). Ran opened the floor for further discussion to gain clarification on points such as needs of research faculty and driving factors to have representation on the Faculty Senate.

4. Other Items

Due to technical difficulties, Priorities for AY 2021-2022 topic on Alignment of COR in the new governance model from Bob Hicock, will be rescheduled for another date. Please review read ahead materials ([attached](#)).

The Commission on Research meeting schedule will be reevaluated to allow for optimal attendance. A doodle poll will be sent to members for input on availability. Pending results, the CoR schedule may be updated to a new recurring day and time.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 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

- October 14
- November 11

- December 9
- February 10
- March 3* (1st Thurs/month)
- April 14
- May 5* (1st Thurs/month)