

Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

11 November 2021

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, Ronald Gibbons, William Headley, Ran Jin, Leslie LaConte Alexander Leonessa, Kevin McGuire, Cristina Miliano, Lydia Patton, Tasia Persson, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Karen Roberto, Manisha Singal, Dan Sui, Stephanie Trout, Pamela VandeVord, Lijuan Yuan

OVPRI Support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Absent with notice: Matt Holt, Robin Queen, Elizabeth White

Absent: Rob Gourdie, Donald Hempson

Guests: Vince Baranauskas, Matthew Hulver, April Myers, Trudy Riley, Melinda West

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 October 13, 2021

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

3. Presentations

Matthew Hulver, Executive Director, Fralin Life Sciences Institute and ICAT 5-Year Review Committee Chair, gave a presentation on the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) 5-Year Review Report ([attached](#)). The commission received the final ICAT 5-Year Report to review prior to the meeting ([attached](#)). In his presentation, Dr. Hulver highlighted the committee tasks and timeline, as well as the executive summary, external review, and recommendations in five thematic areas. Questions related to communication, and fiscal support and resources were addressed. The commission then voted on the recommendations made in the executive summary, external review, and the five thematic areas. All recommendations were approved unanimously by the commission.

Monty Abbas, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, presented the Office of Sponsored Programs Issues Status Update ([attached](#)). In spring 2019 he conducted a survey to collect faculty input on OSP and in February 2021 a working group (Faculty Senate, Commission on Faculty Affairs, Commission on Research, and Office of Sponsored Programs) was formed to examine survey results and recommend solutions. Progress has been made and is continuing in close coordination with OSP leadership. Further discussion items included creating a dashboard to streamline data and metrics, as well as additional challenges with OSP.

4. Other Items

Continuing Conversation on Ethical Research. Jeff Alwang opened the discussion as a follow-up to the two Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) resolutions on research ethics that were presented at the October CoR meeting. The CoR decided not to take the resolutions up in a first reading. Overall concerns were related to the understanding of the shared governance system, having clear, factual, and accurate information within the resolutions, and inclusivity and engagement of experts and ethical entities at VT. The CoR welcomes further engagement in continued conversation in ethical oversight, but in a different forum. Christina will convey to the GPSS.

Research Faculty Working Group. Ran Jin provided an update that the working group met on Monday (11/8) and talked about representation issues and will collect feedback from research faculty members. There is interest and motivation and research faculty want to establish this representation structure within shared governance.

5. Announcements

From the Office of the Vice President for Policy and Governance: a reminder to commissioners that they have a responsibility to take back to the constituent group they represent any items of business (this includes resolutions) for discussion. After discussion with their constituent group, representatives should then provide feedback to the commission such as any questions, concerns, etc. Members should also be reminded that they are not to vote how they personally feel about a resolution because they are a representative of their constituent group and should be voting on behalf of that group.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 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

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