Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
12 November 2020

Virtual

3:30pm-5:00pm

CoR Documents available to CoR members in Team Drive: CoR FY20

Attendance (quorum met): Hypatia Alexandria, Jeff Alwang, Raj Bhagavathula, Harry Dorn, Don Hempson, Jeff Hickman, Matt Holt, Ran Jin, Leslie LaConte, Kevin McGuire, Cristina Miliano, Lydia Patton, Tasia Persson, Jonathan Petters, John Phillips, Robin Queen, Karen Roberto, Daniel Sui, Stephanie Trout, Pam VandeVord (for Julie Ross), Lijuan Yuan, Emily Warwick

OVPRI: Laurel Miner, Kim Borkowski

Members Absent: Elizabeth Grant

Guests: Ellen Plummer, Mary Potter, Philip Young, Ginny Pannabecker, April Myers, Melinda West

I.   [3:30] Approval of the Agenda

II.   Approval of October 2020 Minutes - Approved electronically

III.   Introductions and Announcements

        A. Welcome VPRI – Dr. Dan Sui
            1. Dr. Sui provided a brief background of himself and thanked the committee for their work.
            2. Members introduced themselves to Dr. Sui
        B. Announcement: Dr. Karen Roberto re-appointed as Executive Director of Institute for Society, Culture and Environment

IV.   [3:45] Policy 13000 Second Reading – Philip Young
        A. Brief recap of policy and process prior to first reading – Policy came about in late 2016 from the CoR and formed a working group of five faculty members. Since 2017, we have given multiple presentations to faculty senate, this commission, commission on faculty affairs, as well as PDN sessions as well as presentation for various colleges and departments. Our first reading was about a year ago, and as a result of that, we've had meetings with university legal counsel, provost, and others that resulted in two major changes: 1) To be an addition to 13000

instead of free-standing policy. 2) Policy was expanded from a faculty open access policy to covering everyone with Virginia Tech affiliation.

B. Since the first reading in September, we have had feedback from various constituencies. Faculty Senate sent comments in support of the policy. The Graduate Student Association, Student Government Association and Staff Senate all waived their right to comment. The Graduate and Professional Studies Commission said that they had no questions or comments. The group expects that the working group will continue and that the website will be brought in to a support website and our email will remain active. Feedback from legal counsel was received just prior to second reading. Changes since first reading included:

1. Deleting the word "publish" because the nonexclusive licenses meant that it would be granted before the copyright transfer.
2. Removal of the phrase "for a profit"
3. Last sentence was removed and suggested language added "Upon deposit of accepted manuscripts into the university repository, the university grants authors a nonexclusive license to share accepted manuscripts elsewhere."

C. Voting. Zoom poll was launched for passing the resolution of Policy 13000. Members of the Commission on Research voted in favor to pass the resolution. Resolution will now go to University Council for first reading.

D. Documentation
1. Resolution and draft policy: https://drive.google.com/file/d/15ZjTsX4uQZ8-kJ-GyDIhORHYf1lwXYc9/
2. CoR Open Access Policy Working Group Site: https://sites.google.com/a/vt.edu/cor-oa-policy-working-group/
3. Draft policy: https://sites.google.com/a/vt.edu/cor-oa-policy-working-group/policy-draft
4. FAQ page: https://sites.google.com/a/vt.edu/cor-oa-policy-working-group/frequently-asked-questions

V. [4:00 pm] Policy 13015 First Reading – Mary Potter
A. Presentation on Modifications to Policy 13015 – Ownership Control of Research Data, Results, and Related Materials.
1. Considerations include: Increasing data generation and need for controls, the changing data privacy regulatory and risk landscape, complexities of safeguards, lack of clarity around data ownership and IP, and roles and responsibilities.
2. 2020 Proposed Policy includes:
   a) VT responsibilities
   b) Principal Investigator (PI) responsibilities
   c) Additions and clarifications on open data

> d) Data results and materials transfer when a PI leaves Virginia Tech and researchers making copies of research data

    3. In revising the proposed policy, reviewers included: members of the Commission on Research, the library, the Office of Sponsored Programs, and legal counsel.

B. Questions from CoR members

    1. Question: Does this cover tangible objects of research such as samples?
Answer: Potentially; the definition of "Research data, results, and related materials" is in Section 4 of the revised 13015 Policy.

    2. Question: Would there be usefulness to delegating data management to other services such as cloud services, ARC, consulting on data, or archive, and if so, how can researchers know where to delegate?
Answer: It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure the data protection is in place, and management is not delegated to those services. The policy will be clarified.

    3. Question: How does this affect disagreements between a graduate student and advisor; if for example the advisor refuses to allow data to migrate with the student, how would that be handled?
Answer: Such ownership disputes have previously been the purview of the university ombudsman and graduate school. In previous instances, the compromise was for both sides to share some data, but not all data. A standard operating procedure will be developed to support the process for such disputes in the future

C. Documentation

    1. Resolution:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ablrlGjsSOhcHB_5t_Y7HnGuS_U7B4FK/

    2. Draft Policy:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D7AVEva8ambODaIGWftueDyiVkfwM96E/

D. There will be a 2nd reading at the February 2021 CoR meeting after review by the appropriate governing bodies.

VI. [4:15 pm] VTTI 5 Year Review Report – Karen Roberto/Ran Jin

A. Presentation and discussion on VTTI 5-Year Review Recommendations, presented by Ran Jin

    1. Overview included objectives of the review, requirements policy 130005, VTTI Report and Findings

        a) Questions from the final charge to answer

        b) Current status reviewed tasks and date timeline

        c) VTTI Review Report

    2. Summary of Recommendations

B. Questions from CoR members

    1. Question: The report calls for the recognition of distinguished research scientist; does this category that already exist?

Answer: It is a title, not a rank, and can be used informally. Any increase in salary associated with such a title would be handled internally to VTTI and is beyond the scope of the committee.
2. Question: Clarification on the process – What is the outcome from the report; is there a follow-up in another five years to see if recommendations were implemented?
Answer: The report goes to the administrator and director, the administrator has 45 days to come up with a plan to address the recommendation and then a discussion and mutual agreement with VPRI and director, to develop a plan. Institutes are assessed every five years.
C. Voting. Zoom poll was launched for voting on each of the six (1-6) recommendations. CoR members voted to approve all recommendations.

VII.   Upcoming business
A. ICTAS 5-Year Review
B. Change in Commission on Research membership
C. National Security Institute will likely not be ready for the December meeting

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*Please take note of the 2020-2021 meetings listed below which will all take place 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)

2020
● December 10

2021
● No January Meeting
● February 11
● March 11
● April 8
● May 6