Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

9 December 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), Sheryl Ball, Isabel Bradburn, Christina Chuong, Ronald Gibbons, Robert Gourdie, Donald Hempson, Ran Jin, Leslie LaConte Alexander Leonessa, Kevin McGuire, Luke Neurauter, Lydia Patton, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Karen Roberto, Manisha Singal, Dan Sui, Stephanie Trout, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

OVPRI Support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Absent with notice: Montasir Abbas, Matt Holt, Cristina Miliano, Tasia Persson, Robin Queen

Absent without notice: William Headley

Guests: Vince Baranauskas, 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 November 11, 2021

Jeff Alwang noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the Commission on Research drive. He reminded members to review the minutes and provide edits; no comment is taken as approval.

3. Other Items

Research Faculty Working Group Update. Ran Jin, Associate Professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering, and CoR co-chair, provided an update on the activity of the research faculty working group (attached). In his update, Dr. Jin described the progress of the COR working group in developing a recommendation for Faculty Senate to include research faculty representation. To this end, Dr. Jin, Isabel Bradburn, and Raj Bhagavathula will prepare a resolution for the COR's consideration. This resolution will include recommendations for both how research faculty should be represented, depending on their organization within the university, and how they should be elected. It is likely that research faculty within departments will be represented through their department. The working group is considering two models of representation for research faculty in institutes; one where they are elected by all non-college research faculty, and another where there are separate elections for those in large institutes and those in other organizations. The goal is to complete this work in the spring.

Discussion on Transdisciplinary Research led by Karen Roberto, Executive Director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment and Sheryl Ball, Professor, Economics. Dr. Roberto opened the discussion by asking the Commission to describe what opportunities and support systems are available for faculty pursuing transdisciplinary research. Members raised the institutes (both thematic and investment), university-level centers, shared students, and the library as major opportunities for transdisciplinary research. Next, Dr. Roberto solicited thoughts on the challenges and potential solutions for transdisciplinary research. Primary barriers include a lack of recognition in promotion and tenure for these activities (frequently driven by departmental disciplinary rankings); and financial drivers through facilities and administration (F&A) fund distribution. Members also raised the benefits of a liaison, guide, or mentor to support matchmaking among disciplines. In addition, the group discussed the differences between multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary; Dr. Sui shared a presentation he recently gave that included these definitions (attached).

4. Announcements

Dr. Alwang requested volunteers to participate in a task force for software procurement led by faculty senate

Dr. Sui introduced Vince Baranauskas, Senior Research Development Coordinator, in the Office of Research and Innovation, who will help to bridge the various capabilities that support research across campus.

5.Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 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

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