

Agenda

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

February 13, 2019

130 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm-5:00pm

COR Documents available to COR members in Team Drive: [COR FY2018-2019](#)

Attended:

Members: Virginia Pannabecker, Stefan Duma, Robert (Bobby) Vance (for Elizabeth Grant), Lijuan Yuan, R. Bruce Vogelaar, Marie Elisa Christie, Nancy Dudek, Shuo Geng (for Liwu Li for John Phillips), Nicholas Brown, Ken Miller, Kevin McGuire, Saied Mostaghimi, Dipankar Chakravarti, Deborah Milly, Rajaram Bhagavathula, Uri Kahanovitch, Randy Heflin (for Sally Morton), Alan Michaels

OVPRI: Theresa Mayer, Laurel Miner, Diane Zielinski

Presenters: VT-FAST representatives: Janet Webster, Associate Director of Finance and Administration, Fralin Life Science Institute and Jon Greene, Director for National Security and Program Development, Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Sciences

- I. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Motion to approve by S. Mostaghimi, second by Alan Michaels
 - B. Approved by majority vote
- II. Approval of December Minutes
 - A. Approved via email
- III. Announcements
 - A. [Faculty & Staff Awards](#)
 - B. [University Ombuds Office director search](#)
- IV. [3:35] Unfinished Business
 - A. Report of Ongoing Activities
 1. Committee on Research Competitiveness – S. Duma
 - a) Finished data collection. Finished a draft and will have a report for the next meeting.
 - (1) Looked at about 40 schools (viewed online information for all, called people at about 20 schools to get further information). Used the HERD list.
 2. University Library Committee – V. Pannabecker

- a) No report.
- 3. Faculty Senate – B. Vogelaar or B. Britt
 - a) Had discussion about governance. Working on resolutions modifying Faculty Senate Constitution related to to re-election of representatives to faculty senate. Related to term limits.
- 4. Update to Policy 13005 – A. Michaels
 - a) Preparing for first reading of resolution to update policy 13005
 - b) Draft policy is being circulated for initial feedback
- 5. Open Access Policy update – K. McGuire
 - a) Met once this semester and developed a new presentation
 - b) Faculty Senate presentation on March 8th and will have University Counsel with us for that presentation
 - c) Looking to be at CFA as well for the updated presentation this spring
 - d) Beginning the week of January 28th, there is sometimes a campus notice, "[Virginia Tech Commission on Research proposes new faculty policy to make Virginia Tech scholarship publicly available](#)," posted at the end of VT News tables of contents.
 - (1) Please circulate this to your constituents so they're aware of this and can provide feedback or questions
 - (2) K. McGuire sent to CNRE faculty who were interested - led to scheduling an open presentation and Q&A for the college. Presentations are available for any who request it.
 - (3) Comment: may be able to announce this notice in the Associate Deans for Research meeting
- 6. Public Access to Research Data - V. Pannabecker / COR committee representative
 - a) COR members: Elizabeth Grant and Raj Bagavathula will represent COR
 - b) Update on committee progress will be provided in May
- 7. Software Review Backlogs update - V. Pannabecker
 - a) No report. Commission on University Support is scheduled to hear a presentation about this at their next meeting in February.

B. OVPRI Update - T. Mayer or L. Miner

- 1. HERD report:
 - a) Federal portfolio was up a little over 8%; Industry support up about 8%; Overall increase of 1.2%; Institutional support dropped
 - b) Monitoring our competitive portfolio
 - c) Significantly above the average across the country
 - d) Increase in federal competitive awards and increase in Industry

2. New hires

- a) New Associate Vice President for Sponsored Programs - Trudy Riley, began on Jan 7th - [see VT News story of November 14, 2018](#). Leads the sponsored programs team in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, which is responsible for the full array of pre-award, contracting, and post-award functions.
- b) New Associate Vice President - David Schabdach began January 7th - [see VT News story of October 1, 2018](#). Serving as the attending veterinarian and directing the university program for laboratory animal resources in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation.
- c) New opportunities to engage faculty in initiatives
 - (1) Re-establishment of Faculty Fellows program in OVPRI - 25-50% positions to focus on special initiatives; Limited time appointments (2-3 years). See [VT News Story of February 22, 2019](#).
 - (a) First fellow identified: Robin Queen, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics - working on health data privacy and developing university-wide data security infrastructure for research associated with human subjects; key connections with Carilion; small working group with faculty to ensure investments meet our institutional goals and values.
 - (b) Other areas of high priorities: soliciting nominations (call has gone out to associate deans for research and others):
 - (i) Shared User Laboratories
 - (a) Ex: more integrated sequencing / mass spectrometry facilities; hard materials; renewal coming up for NSF NNCI infrastructure site grant - reinvest in analytical facilities and look at materials categorization needs
 - (b) What will the user experience be like? How will this work? → this is what the faculty fellow/s will be working on; looking at models that exist; including looking at a software platform for scheduling instruments,

invoicing internal and external users, etc.

- (c) Shared facilities are not likely to break even, have to look at subsidizing to ensure needed investment in these facilities
- (d) Quantum Science / Quantum Engineering: explore whether VT is in a position to spearhead an investigation activity that would require more significant nanofabrication facilities
- (e) Side note: equipment trust fund - increased emphasis on us communicating to state leaders how we're investing in ensuring cross institutional use and efficiencies
 - (i) There is a bill under consideration that would pull a section of this fund to make a chunk of this fund under a new authority that we would have to competitively bid for and show how it's useful for the state.

3. Biocomplexity Institute - Next Steps

- a) Phase 1 was a listening tour; talked with about 75 faculty plus faculty senate, other stakeholders; integrating feedback towards new plans regarding:
 - (1) Model of institute - previously soft-funded - may be mixed in the future
 - (2) Thematic areas - what has worked well / where has there been tension?
 - (3) Will share main points when summarized
 - (4) Key question: understanding what resources we have to reinvest - space, facilities, dollars that have been freed up
- b) Question: Any timeline in mind? Response: Based on feedback (and after verifying no constraints from previous state legislation that initiated the institute), converging on a new model; working on the financial model to move away from pure soft money model to one that is more integrated with the colleges; working on writing this up to bring to COR and others.

V. [4:15] New Business

A. VT-FAST (Faculty Activity Support Team): <https://fralin.vt.edu/fast.html>

1. [Slides attached at end of these minutes]
2. Presenters: Janet Webster, Assoc Director of Finance and Administration, Fralin Life Science Institute and Jon Greene, Associate Director for Strategic Planning and Development at Institute Critical Technology and Applied Science. Both support proposal development and more for VT-FAST.
3. Overall, VT-FAST supports faculty in proposal development: "Allowing researchers to focus on research"
4. Virtual team launched in Fall 2018: Pulling together those who help with proposal development across the university so people can talk and meet
5. Support pre and post award; take care of a lot of admin tasks; help identify forms needed, etc. Support to identify some options for outreach
6. Not sure what to do for a portion of your proposal? Ask VT-FAST
7. Questions
 - a) Geared towards 'positional funding avenues'? What about corporate funding? Do you interact with them? Yes, some with foundation. Yes, work with industry too, but at lower scale than LINK; LINK is more higher level industry collaboration
 - (1) We have 2 major Focus areas
 - (a) Junior faculty getting started
 - (b) Large collaborative grants that are limited submission grants
 - b) What about combo corporate / federal grants? Members of a number of DOD consortia that do this type.
 - (1) Additional comment: many DOE and DOD - involve a tech commercialization pathway with a transition partner; this is usually supported by [LINK: Center for Advancing Industry Partnerships](#); proposal is done as more of a federal proposal after corporate relationship is built (w/help from LINK)
 - c) So, if I need help, but can't tell which individual to ask - what do I do? For general inquiries, contact Janet or Jon
 - (1) Share workload between FAST group; and FAST group can ask other FAST members for help
 - (2) On the about page, you can see Janet and Jon's emails.
 - d) Some colleges have specific people that they'll notice when they look at this VT-FAST list of supporters; have you gotten questions / asks from people outside these areas? Yes, for example, Janet would usually would support 45 proposals per year, have now hit 45 proposals in 6 months so have doubled work. Worked together

with a group to do a large grant this year - this approach really helps with large, collaborative grants.

- e) Would it make sense to provide links to VT-FAST elsewhere? Such as on the OVPRI site, or elsewhere? Good idea.

VI. [4:55] Adjournment

*The following are the remaining upcoming meetings for 2018-2019 which will all take place in Burruss 130 from 3:30pm-5:00pm unless otherwise noted:

13 March 2019

10 April 2019

8 May 2019



VT-FAST

____ALLOWING RESEARCHERS TO FOCUS ON RESEARCH

JON GREENE AND JANET WEBSTER

What is VT-FAST?

- Virginia Tech Faculty Activity Support Team
- Formed in 2018.
- Is a virtual team of faculty and staff across campus who support proposal development from single investigator to large teams with external partners.
- Goal is to facilitate all aspects of proposal development and submission so that the researcher can focus most of his/her efforts on the actual proposal.

How Can VT-FAST Help You?

Key Sections of the Application:

Project Summary

Project Narrative

References

Facilities and Other Resources

Equipment

Other Attachments

Introduction

Specific Aims

Research Strategy

Inclusion Enrollment Report

Progress Report Publication List

Protection of Human Subjects

Inclusion of Women and Minorities

Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table

Inclusion of Children

Vertebrate Animals

Select Agent Research

Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan

Consortium/Contractual Arrangements

Letters of Support

Resource Sharing Plan(s)

Appendix

Virginia Tech Faculty Activity Support Team VT-FAST (organized through ICTAS & Fralin)

- Facilitates proposal preparation, allowing faculty to focus on research plan documents
- **PreAward Help**
 - Strategy
 - Coordinate meetings
 - Develop supporting material
 - Budget development
 - Graphics
 - Putting together teams
 - Time Management
 - Summit and Cayuse
 - Data Tables
 - Internal Reviews
 - Working with subcontractors
 - Sponsor engagement
 - Broader impacts
 - Technical editing, proofreading and formatting
 - Management plans
 - Cost share
- **PostAward Help**
 - Project Management
 - Annual report
 - Schedule/manage meetings
 - Tracking cost share
 - Editing journal articles
 - Publicizing success
 - Tracking budget/Rebudgeting
 - Managing subcontractors
 - Talks and posters
- **Contact Janet Webster (jbwebste@vt.edu) or Jon Greene (greenej@vt.edu)**



Who Are We?

How Can You Get Help?

<https://fralin.vt.edu/fast.html>

Questions?

