

Minutes

COMISSION ON RESEARCH

February 14, 2018

130 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm-5:00pm

Attendees: Virginia Pannabecker, Deborah Milly, Thomas Bell, Saied Mostaghimi, Kevin McGuire, Stefan Duma, Kurt Zimmerman, Bruce Vogelaar, Sally Morton, Theresa Mayer, Rachel Rupnow, Ken Miller, Ben Corl, Andrew Neilson, Nancy Dudek, Dipankar Chakravarti, Uri Kahanovitch, Alan Michaels, Steve Nagle, and Tracy McElroy on behalf of Myra Blanco

Absent: Jen Irish, Van Crowder, Sid Madhavan

Guests: Dennis Grove, Peggy Layne, Lauren, Vicki Ratcliffe, Linda Bucy, Quinn Steen

- I. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Update - strike update to policy 13005
- II. Announcements
 - A. Connie Marshall agreed to take minutes in Chris Tysor's absence
- III. Unfinished Business
 - A. Dr. Theresa Mayer
 1. Need for reviewing faculty dossier content and faculty recognition initiatives
 - a. CFA presentation - related to resolutions seen by COR
 - b. Challenges faculty are seeing in center related proposals; dossier does not have a way for them to show grants that are not ultimately awarded, but that get submitted, and may even go through the first and second step of large grant awarding process - the time and effort required to go through this could be reflected in some way to give credit for that work
 - i. What are COR's thoughts on addressing this being added to official P&T dossier content - since tenure guidelines are under review
 - . Comment - Hasn't it always been the case that one could include and discuss grant submissions in one's dossier? Response: Annual Review has this, but not dossier
 - . Others - narrative portion is where people usually include this (efforts to get funding that required work, but did not ultimately get funded)
 - ii. If there is an interest in this in the future - COR could see if a review of faculty dossier is something to look into further
 2. Feedback on COR's report on the instrumentation focus groups delivered in October
 - a. Points raised are very good points - access, awareness; have had input on staffing and maintenance

- b. Putting together working groups to address the points raised in the report. Will be sending request for members for working group on shared facilities and infrastructure
 - c. Equipment funds previously distributed to depts; but this time funding was set aside to address collaborative infrastructure / shared facilities
 - d. Working group goal: prioritized list of capital resources / equipment needed; create process to vet these, prioritize, especially for startup programs
 - e. Take recommendations from report and develop implementation plan - including list creation/prioritization, scheduling, billing/cost share, etc.
 - f. Resources now are significantly limited
 - g. Staffing support is another pressure point: how can we subsidize shared use facilities? To assume they'll break even is not realistic, but these facilities are valuable for cross-cutting initiatives
 - h. Peer models - we need to meet federal cost accounting standards, which may prevent us from using some methods used elsewhere; might need another group to do a deep dive to investigate these aspects
 - i. Send recommendations about working group or other aspects of shared use facilities to Jen Irish from COR who will forward to Theresa and copy Connie Marshall
3. COR representative on Strategic Planning initiative subcommittee
- a. Strategic planning committee started - announced in President's letter about new university strategic plan. Research strategic plan subcommittee has been started
 - b. Many units have been asked to present to the committee
 - c. There will be town hall meetings to contribute / discuss
 - d. Theresa will ask if COR can have rep, and if not, will aim to keep COR goals in mind and report back to us
- B. Report of Ongoing Activities
1. Revisions to the Faculty Handbook – P. Layne
- a. CoR Resolution on Overload Pay for Research Faculty Who Teach- Notification of minor revisions in response to CFA comments
 - b. CoR Resolution on Research Faculty Promotions- Notification of minor revisions in response to CFA comments
 - c. **CoR Resolution to Clarify Language in Faculty Handbook on Search Requirements and Removal Processes for Research Faculty Members-** Saied motioned to approve; Ben Corl seconded. No discussion. Approved by vote
2. Faculty Senate – B. Vogelaar 2 senate meetings since the last time met
- a. Focused on P&T, closed sessions on a lot of it. Looking into options for reform
 - b. Had various meetings, including with Dr. Mayer and with Monty Abbas
 - c. Focus is resources for Destination areas, SGAs, etc. Faculty Senate's current focus is on the value of faculty time, and ensuring that this is taken into consideration when new or expanded requirements or

initiatives are considered. Another report on P&T - currently internal

3. Committee on Research Competitiveness – S. Duma Met since last meeting; through discussions with Jen, focused on developing a set of best practices for Center level grants development - get representative names to brainstorm, get ideas from other universities; do this work over the next 6 months and report in fall.
 - a. Q for CRC to consider from CoR member: Would this be a good opportunity to also look into practices related to centers and faculty incentives? For example: how in peer institutions are faculty incentivized to participate in centers?
4. Update to Policy 13005 – A. Michaels – Postponed
5. University Library Committee – Postponed
6. Open Access Policy Draft announcement– Postponed
7. Update on Commission Chairs meeting with Pres. Sands- Jen Irish – Postponed

IV. New Business

A. Office of Sponsored Programs Update- Linda Bucy, Lauren Magruder and Vicki Ratcliffe

1. Lauren: New version of Summit - previously could only approve proposals; now can say you want to return it for correction with notes about changes needed; then can be re-routed and approved once fixed
 - a. Will create an approval history
 - b. Added IRB questions to address issues for single IRB for NIH sponsored grants to comply with this update
 - c. Future releases for Summit - working on it!
 - d. Pilot of customizable email notification system coming
 - e. **Training option for new PIs / new faculty / new researchers:** Laura Rasnick has come up with a new PI program that she is piloting - for new faculty, new PIs - one on one orientation within their office; intro to NSF Fastlane, OSP resources and support - see OSP contacts, including Laura Rasnick's info here: <https://www.research.vt.edu/staff-directory/osp>
 - f. Questions:
 - i. Q: What about feature of approval through mobile devices?
A: Working on this, but it is not ready to be piloted yet
 - ii. Q: Used to be that department chairs could access info about proposals – the abstract at least, but looks like that may not be possible now? A: Will look into updates on how department chairs can access info; if don't see anything, can also return that for correction to ask that research team add info
2. Discosure Management Plan System - online, no more paper
 - a. Soft launch this month: <https://secure.research.vt.edu/coi>
 - b. Currently 67 plans with 108 projects
 - c. Info about types of disclosures, those involved, oversight needed / planned
 - d. Those who are named as oversight will receive an email describing oversight requirements and asking about their acceptance/non-

acceptance of oversight role. (So best to discuss with this people that will oversee your project in advance so that they expect this email.)

e. Mitigations section

f. Questions:

- i. Q: What is timeline involved in this process, usually? A: As soon as someone indicates possible conflict in proposal, OSP reaches out to help draft a management plan right away. Hard to put a specific timeframe on it; depends on circumstances - for approvals of exceptions needs proposal, mgt plan, review by a couple other groups, then goes to President Sands for approval. Once faculty are thinking of a business, talk to OSP asap to figure out how it will work for funding, etc.; OSP will walk people through these things when they come up - sooner notice is better
- ii. Q: Is there a process to assess whether meeting what committed to in management plan? A: Yes, that's part of plan which includes post-assessment - can be quarterly / less / more, depends on level of conflict, etc. Trying to eliminate administrative burden, paperwork - trying to draft management plans for faculty to get them started; have templates now that can be edited; happy to work with faculty to think through such plans
- iii. Q: Comment: Can there be an option to print out the whole thing as a PDF - the whole history of project? A: Yes, that is already possible - you can do this. Tested it this morning. Even questions that were answered 'no' are still there - so you can see everything.

B. Update on VT SPIA Center absorption- CoR has been notified: Document detailing absorption plan is on CoR team drive

1. Comment from visitor, Dennis Grove: there is a backlog of center changes being worked through - will bring up 2 at next CoR meeting in March
2. Agenda addition: Add announcement of 2 college level centers;
3. Request by Dennis to add announcement of 2 college level centers. Motion to add this update to the agenda by Ben Corl, seconded by Debora Milly. Approved.
 - a. Update 1: New Center for Humanities, CLAHS - Sylvester Johnson - the charter will be forthcoming
 - b. Update 2: Vet Med Center
4. Discussion of University Policy 13005, "Centers and University Institutes: Establishment, Governance and Programmatic Oversight" - discussed requirement to inform Commission about centers at college level; however no requirement in 13005 for commissions to review and evaluate new college level centers - this is only required for university level centers and institutes. OVPRI has reviewed these center proposals. Dennis Grove has shared charters with Jen Irish and we will look to make them available for COR members to look at prior to March meeting.

V. Adjournment – Sally motioned and Deborah Seconded

*The meeting minutes of December 14, 2017, were voted on electronically. Please remember that the absence of a response indicated a positive vote.

Please take note of the following upcoming meetings which will all take place in Burruss 130 from 3:30pm-5:00pm unless otherwise noted:

March 14, 2018

April 11, 2018

May 9, 2018