

Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

7 April 2020

Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/531202248>

4:00pm-5:00pm

CoR Documents available to CoR members in Team Drive: [CoR FY20](#)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/10LtMBuRCE-v4czUfvVT7NHoXBWwtl8Gg>

Attendance (quorum met): Jeff Alwang, Raj Bhagavathula, Elizabeth Grant, Kevin McGuire, Alan Michaels, Tasia Persson, Wayne Scales (for Julie Ross) Don Taylor, Stephanie Trout, Ellen Plummer, Uri Kahanovich, Matt Holt, Don Hempson, Elizabeth Grant, Erin Smith, Deborah Milly, Karen Roberto, Ken Miller

OVPRI: Laurel Miner, Kim Borkowski

Members Absent: Ralph Badinelli, Nick Brown, John Phillips, Blake Smith, Robert Vogelaar, Lijuan Yuan

Guests: Quinn Warnick, Dale Pike, April Myers

- I. [4:00] Introductions
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Minutes for 3/5/2020 approved electronically
- IV. [4:00] Research Operations – D. Taylor
 - A. Entire OVPRI office is running close to 100%. The Office of Sponsored Programs is doing vigorous business, especially COVID-19 specific.
 - B. Q&A
 1. University involvement with COVID-19 support
 - a) U. Kahanovich asked how the university is combatting COVID-19. D. Taylor replied noting some efforts we are working on:
 - b) XJ Meng is working on a potential vaccine solution
 - c) Seed funding mechanism with investment institutes directors
 - d) COVID-19 Funding Opportunities website
 - e) COVID-19 Rapid Response team led by Matt Hulver
 - f) Potential testing site at Steger Hall (pending approval)
 2. Hiring Freeze

- a) S. Trout inquired about the Governor's hiring freeze and how does it impact the VPRI position?
 - (1) D. Taylor replied that the search is still on and the position is still essential. Believe we have excellent candidates.
 - (2) M. Holt was able to provide additional information indicating that over the next few weeks, Provost Clarke and the OVPRI office will have an opportunity to speak with semi-finalists. What is not clear is what happens next in the search, a visit to campus at some point is a key requirement of several candidates. Presumably, they would be deferred to the late summer for a formal visit. D. Taylor closed the conversation noting that he is fully committed until the position is filled.
- b) K. Roberto asked if there were any updates on the Strategic Alliances position. D. Taylor responded that an offer has not been made yet.
- c) Don attended a Provost Meeting on the hiring freeze, and most are not really sure what it means. In some cases, we can move forward with critical positions; however, it is clear guidance that we do not hire staff. From the Governor's point of view, it looks bad if you are hiring and firing people.

3. Additional questions

- a) A. Michaels asked if there are areas where the CoR can help? D. Taylor replied that he appreciates all the work CoR has put forth; however, there is nothing critical we need at this time relevant to the current crisis.
- b) M. Holt asked about the National Security Institute. D. Taylor said that we hoped to do that under his term; however, we will not be able to address until the Fall.

V. [4:20] Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) – Q. Warnick

A. [Presentation](#) available on CoR Team Drive. Topics covered available resources for research operations, platforms for collaboration and communication, information and storage, synchronous and asynchronous tools; as well helpful weblinks.

B. Q&A

- 1. M. Holt inquired if it is true that Zoom is not allowed for state business, and if so, are there any implications for campus? Quinn responded that state institutions (Tier 3), like Virginia Tech, are not affected. An announcement will be sent out with more information; including free Zoom vs. Zoom enterprise.
- 2. A. Michaels asked if Zoom is ITAR (restricted research) compliant. Quinn mentioned that HIPPA recordings can be recorded locally, but cannot go to the cloud or it may be disabled entirely. Zoom is not ITAR compliant.

Dale said that they would look into this further. In the meantime, suggested that we look at Microsoft Teams to see if it has met ITAR standards.

3. E. Grant asked about Zoom and Kaltura.
 - a) Quinn explained the difference between the two platforms, including Zoom recording having a limited access (90 days) and Kaltura is VT's video repository for long-term access. Kaltura can be accessed through Canvas or video.vt.edu platform.
4. Quinn asked CoR members what are the biggest challenges for research teams with the loss of face-to-face interactions. What can TLOS do from a support perspective?
 - a) M. Holt said conducting international work.
 - b) J. Alwang commented that there is a possibility of remote delivery and instruction for the Fall semester. Is TLOS synthesizing information on lessons learned, best practices for faculty preparing for Fall; best practices workshop over the summer.
 - (1) Quinn responded that they have put together a list of lessons learned from the first week, as well as a top 10 list regarding best practices that continues to be refined. TLOS is currently tackling one thing at a time and in triage mode: 1. shifting time to workshops and dedicated tutorials re: final exams, projects; etc. 2. Next is to help summer faculty for online instruction 3. and then during summer, there will be bandwidth to focus on Fall online courses. Dale mentioned that one of the things we've struggled with is how best to get the information out as individuals have different needs, etc. If you have any ideas, please let us know.
 - c) A. Michaels also asked about experiential learning and if students have the same access and permissions as faculty?
 - (1) Quinn responded that students have the same permission and access to Microsoft Teams and Google suite. They have access to Kaltura; however, it is different from faculty and staff. Dale said that they are exploring roles of faculty and traditional students within Canvas; and there is a willingness to create a role with specific permissions.

VII. [4:47] Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on May 7, 2020.