

Minutes

**COMMISSION ON RESEARCH**

September 12, 2018

130 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm-5:00pm

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

- I. Approval of the Agenda
  - A. Approved by vote
- II. Approval of May Minutes
  - A. Approved by vote
- III. Announcements
  - A. No announcements
- IV. Welcome to new members and Introductions around the room - V. Pannabecker
  - A. Members introduced themselves with their name, title, area, and role on the commission
- V. Logistics - Governance 101 at VT, Where to find information about COR, about University Council, COR documents (Agendas, supplementary documents, etc) & procedure for electronic approval of Minutes
  - A. VT University Council: <http://governance.vt.edu/>
  - B. Commission on Research: <http://governance.vt.edu/research.php>
  - C. COR Team Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/OAOtk74itikosUk9PVA>
- VI. Unfinished Business
  - A. Report of Ongoing Activities
    1. Committee on Research Competitiveness – S. Duma
      - a) The Committee on Research Competitiveness (CRC) includes myself; Ben Corl, Dept. of Dairy Science, Agriculture and Life Sciences; Kurt Zimmerman, Biomedical Sciences & Pathobiology, Vet Med; and Barb Lockee, Instructional design and Technology, School of Education. After a great deal of debate last year, it was decided that the CRC would develop a summary report with two primary objectives:
        - (1) Methods to increase large scale federal funding

- (2) Methods to diversify funding portfolios to include more industry and foundation.
  - b) In order to accomplish this, the CRC developed and began a two part plan.
    - (1) First, we are benchmarking other leading research universities to quantify what strategies they use to increase and diversify research funding. To date we have benchmarked UVa, Brown, Cornell, Idaho, NC State, and Iowa State. We plan to review the top 25 research universities and combine the data into the report.
    - (2) Our second activity will include discussion groups of faculty at Virginia Tech to solicit ideas and provide internal feedback.
  - c) We plan to issue the summary report to the COR by the end of spring 2019.
- 2. University Library Committee – V. Pannabecker - No report
- 3. Faculty Senate – B. Vogelaar
  - a) No report as no faculty senate representatives attended this COR meeting.
- 4. Update to [Policy 13005](#) – A. Michaels
  - a) Provided background on the policy, which is 5-6 years old and needs updates. Working with Kim O'Rourke and Dee Harris to have support in governance processes. May look at other organizations that have multidisciplinary initiatives and policies related to these. Feedback on suggested changes to [Policy 13005](#) is welcome.
  - b) Discussion about the policy followed:
    - (1) There are parts of the policy that are redundant and inconsistent, for which the research division has highlighted issues and made recommendations. It may be possible to move forward swiftly to take action on these changes.
    - (2) Compliance - about 80% of centers are in compliance; review process is time consuming, just to catch up
    - (3) Need to address center policy as an institution: get an extension on ongoing evaluation of centers until we clarify the center portion of the policy
    - (4) Institute portion - significantly out of date
    - (5) Centers, Institutes, DAs, SGAs - should be part of strategic plan, how do we leverage the strategic planning process?
    - (6) How are centers out of compliance?

- (a) A 5 year review is required for centers at university, college, department, institute levels; however, many college centers are out of the review process
- (b) We don't have a way to take notice of inactive centers
- (7) Good to get an updated listing of VT centers
- c) Alan will get a copy of the most recent research center evaluation report from Theresa
- 5. Open Access Policy update – K. McGuire
  - a) 18 months ago formed committee and have website with more information:  
<https://sites.google.com/a/vt.edu/cor-oa-policy-working-group/>
  - b) Drafted a policy on behalf of faculty on interest and need for OA publication methods - modeled off the Harvard OA Policy model
  - c) 30-50 universities have OA policies supported by an institutional repository.
  - d) NLI sessions this fall: 3 scheduled - Sep 27, Oct 26, Nov 5; discuss the policy, get more input from faculty
  - e) Next steps: draft resolution; in particular interested in more T&R faculty to be on the committee; Oct 22-26 - OA week events - VT news stories will discuss open access broadly

## VII. New Business

### A. Call for topics and/or speakers for next year – V. Pannabecker

#### 1. Ginny listed speaker possibilities, and COR priorities

##### a) Continuing:

- (1) Review of and revisions to Policy 13005, Centers and University Institutes: Establishment, Governance and Programmatic Oversight
- (2) Committee on Research Competitiveness:
- (3) Open Access Policy development

##### b) New:

- (1) Would like to reach out to CFA to learn more about updates to P&T Dossier, especially research components
- (2) Looking for opportunities to contribute to Research areas of Strategic Planning process
- (3) Contribute to review of Faculty Handbook for Research Faculty components
- (4) Consider a new committee to investigate department / college / other entity Faculty & Administration costs related to grants - identifying differences in rates of such costs may help to put together questions or recommendations

towards facilitating collaborations across departments/colleges

2. Discussion of speaker possibilities and priorities for COR
  - a) Strong interest in bringing Lisa Lee, in particular to discuss IRB
  - b) Committee to learn more about F&A at VT - generally and departmentally specific charges that may come up for collaborative projects across departments/colleges is of interest
  - c) Changes to dossier are of interest; conversation with CFA - perhaps they could speak at a meeting
- B. Welcome and OVPRI update and priorities – Theresa Mayer [at 4:15 about]
  1. Thank you to all
  2. Biggest challenge as institution - ability to effectively communicate changes. If the commission members can also bring concerns that they're hearing from their areas, this would be very helpful for OVPRI to address needs. Biggest challenge: understanding where the real concerns are: challenges, bottlenecks; also, false information can get circulated and create confusion; need to understand resource priorities
  3. Comments on items noted in this meeting's agenda
    - a) Human resources - Research faculty; HR division is undergoing transformation; new VP for Human Resources; [Dwayne Pinkney, Senior Vice President for Operations and Administration](#); HR services are a priority; change is underway - each major unit on campus will have a divisional director who will have a dual report to a key leader within the functional unit as well to the VP for HR. Concerns about large number of ranks, and lack of clarity in processes for research faculty; OVPRI has engaged a consultant to get input and feedback from across the institution; consultant will share feedback and recommendations
    - b) Possibly have OVPRI representative (Scott Nostaja, Senior Vice President, Sibson Consulting) come to a future Commission meeting, or share a report with the Commission or with other groups on campus with a stake in research faculty
    - c) Facilities and Administrative Costs (not Indirect): Worries about possible changes to F&A options from federal grants; change dialogue to clarify these cover real costs for facilities and administration. Ways the commission can support this effort:
      - (1) Do some work to educate with some of the materials that are available → OVPRI can share materials on this.
      - (2) Use Commission as an advocate to help campus understand the whole process, rate negotiation, reimbursement for real costs for research facilities and research administrative costs

- (3) If F&A is viewed as unnecessary or inflated overhead (potentially through use of phrases like 'indirect return to faculty'), the case for maintaining F&A is undermined with federal government; if federal government caps at 10% this would devastate all of us
4. Entrepreneurial activities is a topic for promotion and tenure components; VA Commonwealth return on investment for research related support is increasingly viewed through our role in advancing research and innovation and creating new products and processes; start ups / connections to business; not seeing related processes in colleges to motivate entrepreneurial activities
  - a) [VT LAUNCH](#) (companion to LINK) is looking to support this gap
5. IP Policy, IP Committee - looking broadly at our technology research and creation, not clear this committee is functioning as intended; Need to review relationship between this committee and VT IP Board - affiliated organization that manages our compliance - and consider current needs and best processes
6. OVPRI Updates
  - a) This last year was a good year for research at VT; competitive, external research expenditures are up 7% overall - these are what we track very carefully; different from national science foundation, HERD survey - that also includes our non-competitive expenditure and our institutional support
    - (1) Can put together a briefing packet for anyone interested in this
    - (2) Another thing we're tracking is our industry-supported research (though this does not include federal flow-through via industry)
  - b) Pipeline for this year looks healthy
    - (1) NSF, NIH, DOD = about  $\frac{1}{3}$  each from federal agencies
    - (2) Well aligned and making progress towards further diversification for our portfolio
7. Questions / thoughts
  - a) IRB - receiving good feedback from faculty who have been submitting to Western IRB, but interested to hear more from those who may not be having positive experiences.
    - (1) Evaluating what we need for administrative staff for IRB; have posted a related position; in the meantime Western remains a critical part in order to scale the program. We have looked at the makeup of our IRB Committee to better align with the breadth of research at Virginia Tech. That's a lot of work to do, so in the meantime, WIRB is important; also have some dual hat overlap issues so will change

structure of IRB administrator to make sure we don't have institutional challenges - will be reaching out to recruit faculty to serve on the board (requires training)

- (2) Intro to Lisa Lee: Link to Lisa Lee's VT News article: <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2018/09/univrel-leeappointment.html> - area of responsibility - Scholarly Integrity & Research Compliance, brings together human research protections, IACUC, bio safety, and our research integrity and scholarly conduct, especially with a greater educational component. Plan to develop an ethics consultation network; engage people as a network of faculty and students to help others work through ethics issues - proactive versus regulatory; pushing through a lot of protocols; VT's portfolio is complex - this is reflected through the protocols that are coming through.
  - (3) Laurel Miner - Chief of Staff, PhD, previously a Senior Analyst at NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology); engaged in strategic planning about how to support centers, institutes, etc.; it is clear that we've hit a plateau in our supporting infrastructure so looking at ways to expand that
  - (4) Will share news in next couple of weeks of a new attending vet - animal based research leader role - moving towards university-wide approved AAALAC institution
    - (a) New issues - environment in which animals are raised will be more important
    - (b) Comment: standardizing everything to meet AAALAC accreditation is not necessarily all positive, need to have a discussion; costs involved
    - (c) Response: this is something we are considering in looking for an attending vet - someone who understands the complexities of this
  - (5) Also in final stages of national search for AVP, Director of Sponsored Programs - 2nd candidate coming in tomorrow and Friday; 5 candidates coming in altogether
- b) LINK Center for Industry Partnerships
    - (1) Industry connections, sponsor support
  - c) StartUps and Entrepreneurship
    - (1) APEX - particularly great support for undergraduate curricular development
    - (2) LAUNCH - new center for start-ups / new ventures; beginning a search for an executive director of launch; Launch is also a joint venture with Advancement - donors

to support startups, alumni network to support startups, etc.; concept grant programs internal to the institution - for commercial validation of discoveries

(3) We have been underinvesting in IP protection compared to peer institutions, and that makes startups difficult. We looked at the current overall business model; 501(c)3 affiliated corporation; strengthening VTIP with a \$250,000 commitment to protect IP - still not what we need it to be relative to peer institutions, but if we show its usefulness, university will provide further support; will continue patent administration and management - this is required for federal funding; increasing our support for patent administration and management; integrating contracting and team to integrate legal review, etc. for new industry projects

d) Comment: interrelated nature of patents, publications, and recognition / credit towards promotion and tenure process; agreement that this is important to keep in mind related to IP support

(1) Research competitiveness committee - What about this topic? Is this something the committee is looking at? Alignment of incentives related to P&T is not something the committee has addressed. As an example from College of Engineering, for promotion and tenure dossier categories we include specific categories that include entrepreneurship, patents, etc.; lots of groups are doing this; faculty need clarity on what's valued

e) Costs of administrative support at institution - how is this funded at VT? What is it taking away from if anything? This is something a lot of people want to know more about - how is administration growth paid for, what is offsetting that, what are we losing, relative to F&A?

(1) Note made to move this question and topic to a future meeting agenda

VIII. V. Adjournment - Meeting called to adjournment at 5:05pm following motion, second, and approval by 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:

10 October 2018

14 November 2018

12 December 2018

9 January 2019

13 February 2019

13 March 2019

10 April 2019

8 May 2019