

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
7 November 2019
130 Burruss Conference Room
3:30pm-5:00pm

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

Attendance (quorum met)

Members present: Jeff Alwang, Ralph Badinelli, Raj Bhagavathula, Nick Brown, Elizabeth Grant, Don Hempson, Matt Holt, Alan Michaels, Kevin McGuire, Ken Miller, Deborah Milly, Tasia Persson, Jonathan Petters, John Phillips, Wayne Scales (for Julie Ross), Robert Vogelaar, Lijuan Yuan

OVPRI: Laurel Miner, Kim Borkowski

Members absent: Jack Finney, Uri Kahanovich, Karen Roberto, Blake Smith, Don Taylor, Stephanie Trout

Guests: Sandra Burks, Lynn Byrd, Karen DePauw, Andi Ogier, Ginny Pannabecker

- I. [3:30] Introductions
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Minutes for 10/10/2019 approved electronically
- IV. [3:35] Announcements
 - A. University Council meeting 10/21 and 11/4; minutes on campus site
 1. 4 different matrix approved – 1st reading, next 2nd meeting very little discussion.
 2. Enterprise Risk Management ppt
 - B. Presentation from VTIP to reconstitute IP Committee by the end of the fiscal year. We would welcome participation.
- V. [3:40] Unfinished Business
 - A. Report of Ongoing Activities
 1. University Library Committee – J. Petters

- a) Met last Wednesday and reviewed the charge and recommendations for libraries and strategic planning process.
 - b) Next meeting is scheduled for mid-December.
- 2. Faculty Senate – B. Vogelaar
 - a) Met on October 25. There were four topics of discussion: 1. Ongoing faculty promotion tenure guidelines. 2. Holistic graduate admissions presentation by Karen DePauw. 3. Discussion accommodating religious observances – proposal for resolution. 4. VT School of Medicine - members who should be on faculty senate.
 - b) Climate action and resolution meeting with President Sands on November 8.
- 3. Update to Policy 13005 – A. Michaels
 - a) Meeting with Alan, Jack, Ken to talk about re-addition/ previous components. Agreement is a hybrid in principal. Controller's team has the policy for revision; at our next meeting we will have a second reading.
- 4. Open Access Policy update – K. McGuire
 - a) 1st reading tabled.
 - b) Met with IP and legal and they encouraged us to place this policy in Policy 13000 as there were concerns with legal issues. Will regroup and bring back to the CoR for discussion in December and get back to a resolution in February.
- 5. Public Access to Research Data Committee – A. Ogier
 - a) Report submitted last month – printed versions handed out and on CoR google drive. 1. Revision of policy 130015. 2. Working arrangement between libraries, OSP to create guidance. 3. University libraries, Division of IT and Research Compliance Office to encourage groups to work together when data should / should not be made available.
 - b) Data Management Plan process, guidance and recommendations discussed.
 - c) Recommendation to create a standing Data Security and Sharing Committee reporting to the CoR. Charter needs to be created. J. Phillips added that one of the goals of the committee will be to help researchers navigate those boundaries.
 - d) A. Michaels inquired to when policy updates on 130015 would be proposed and that any revisions would come through CoR. A. Ogier indicated that they are currently working with research compliance to make some revisions.
- B. OVPRI Update – D. Taylor or L. Miner
 - 1. No update

VI. [4:00] New Business

A. Presentation and Discussion: Graduate School – Karen DePauw

1. Would like for the CoR and Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies to work together. Open Access - why not open it up to graduate students and others?
2. Support services for Graduate Students:
 - a) We have a [Transformative Graduate Initiative](#) in which we offer certificates to graduates preparing to be future professorial faculty members. We also have an emerging certificate/courses in preparing professionals for outside academia – pretty well subscribed classes.
 - (1) There is a new graduate certificate in Inclusion & Diversity related to two additional requirements passed by University Council – ethics requirements, scholarly integrity. Additionally, there is now an inclusion & diversity requirement for graduate students – a plan for addressing certain topics in diversity.
 - (2) Eligibility to earn graduate certificates. An individual would have to be a graduate student (can be post-degree). There are some programs that limit to current students; however, we encourage departments to not be restrictive.
 - (3) With society changing, graduate certificates are going to be as important as degrees.
3. The Graduate School was recently invited and has joined the Coalition of Life Sciences. Provides access to valuable data that will help us make decisions (ie. graduation by the numbers, information on applications, percent of students in programs on assistantships, etc.)
4. PhD Candidacy status. Approved through University Council last May to create a new status; however, it is not yet implemented due to cost concerns. Kevin Edgar is leading a committee on this.
5. Electronic Theses and Dissertations. General audience abstract, scientific or disciplinary. We want to get results of research out to the public. In the process of creating a website to access and sort through abstracts. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reach audience and student recruiting.
6. Graduate level enrollment numbers have increased overall and in Blacksburg this year, including international student enrollment.
 - a) The Graduate School is mandated 750 grad enrollments over 5-7 years and we are working primarily with COE. General vision for graduate enrollment is to increase, but we need more PhD students in 3 primary locations if we are going to have faculty working in research (PhD, MA, professional students) as we want it to be balanced.
7. International student issues. It has been challenging with regulations, travel bans and delays (for students and staff). 38% of our graduation

population are international students from over 100 countries (top two countries are China and India). Main concern is the message sent to international students from our country. Our goal has to be that “you are welcome here”.

8. Creating a graduate faculty. We have graduate program faculty and are piloting a program this semester. This would allow students to do more interdisciplinary research and bring faculty into a non-traditional environment.

B. CoR representative: Academies of Faculty Service and Leadership review

1. Request for CoR to support review meeting of 20-30 nomination packages before the end of the year. Additional meetings would be scheduled January / February 2020.
2. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please let Alan know.

C. Faculty handbook updates – L. Miner

1. Working group serving OVPRI and Provost Office, along with Raj, have been looking at changes for research faculty ranks. General proposal is to realign four ranks, with three categories of change:
 - a) Project associate rank is closer to AP faculty/program management – acknowledge equivalency to see if we can get them into the A/P.
 - b) Post-docs would be taken out of research faculty ranks. There is a desire to acknowledge a more trainee status.
 - c) Research associate, scientist and professor would be taken out of OVPRI and moved to Provost office to better align and provide more opportunities for professional development and resources offered by Provost.
2. The Commission of Faculty Affairs is looking at what changes would need to be made to modify the handbook. They are putting together a working group (Lynn Byrd will staff, along with Raj) and Amy Hogan will work on the composition of the rest of the group.
 - a) Post-docs will be pulled out into their own chapter or their own handbook. Because post-docs will remain with OVPRI, this is the domain of CoR. We would like a small working group from CoR to look at the post-doc changes.
 - (1) Members interested: Wayne Scales, Jonathan Petters, Bruce Vogelaar, Alan Michaels, Uri Kahanovich (previously expressed interest); suggestion to have an Inclusion and Diversity representative.
 - (2) Lynn Byrd noted that they are benchmarking peer institutes and they provide a separate office for post docs, so we are looking at providing a Post-doc Affairs Office within OVPRI.

VII. [5:00] Adjournment

***Please take note of the 2019-2020 meetings listed below** which will all take place in Burruss Hall 130, from 3:30-5:00 pm, on the **2nd Thursday of each month** (with a few exceptions to accommodate academic year events or breaks)

2019

- Dec. 5

2020

- Jan. – no meeting
- Feb. 6
- March 5
- April 9
- May 7