

Minutes  
**COMMISSION ON RESEARCH**  
5 December 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: Regina Allen (for Stephanie Trout), Jeff Alwang, Ralph Badinelli, Nick Brown, Uri Kahanovich, Kevin McGuire, Alan Michaels, Ken Miller, Deborah Milly, Jonathan Petters, Karen Roberto, Wayne Scales (for Julie Ross), Don Taylor, Lijuan Yuan

OVPRI: Laurel Miner, Kim Borkowski

Members Absent: Raj Bhagavathula, Elizabeth Grant, Don Hempson, Matt Holt, Tasia Persson, Julie Ross, Stephanie Trout, Robert Vogelaar

Guests: Barbara DeCausey, Cristen Jandreau, Lisa Lee, Mary Potter, Kory Trott

- I. [3:30] Introductions
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Minutes for 11/7/2019 approved electronically
- IV. [3:35] Announcements
  - A. University Council meeting 12/2; minutes on campus site
    1. Note three Resolutions for new degree programs Approved from the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
- V. [3:40] New Business
  - A. Presentation: Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance (SIRC) – Lisa Lee
    1. Presentation covered topics on: SIRC mission and commitment to service, including facilitating and fostering scholarly and ethical excellence and decision-making; as well as ensuring regulatory compliance. Presentation available in CoR folder.

2. A Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force is currently being established per President Sands request
3. Key members of the SIRC Team were introduced
4. Open Discussion
  - a) Jeff Alwang brought up concerns regarding international research and requirements that are difficult to achieve; in addition to IRB training certification. Lisa stated that a big part of SIRC is to help inform the research community what is and what is not required. We now have a group of expert leaders that can help you navigate a variety of situations so we can be compliant with federal regulations and requirements. Regarding IRB certification, as of January 2019, VT requires initial training and then refresher training every three years. Karen Roberto encouraged CoR members to play an active role in IRB.
  - b) Uri Kahanovich mentioned SIRC visibility. Regina Allen explained that several of the SIRC groups have office hours in buildings where researchers work, including Litton-Reeves and FBRI on a monthly basis. We are trying to get the word out via VT news.
  - c) Additional discussion items included graduate school ethics courses and connecting on that level. Kory Trott is currently meeting with key individuals to address these needs. Additionally, the need for consultation and providing guidance in understanding how to protect and share data, which May Potter has expertise in.

VI. [4:10] Unfinished Business

A. Report of Ongoing Activities

1. University Library Committee – J. Petters
  - a) Committee plans to meet with the Privacy & Research Data Protection Program office.
2. Faculty Senate – B. Vogelaar
  - a) Absent, no update.
3. Policy 13005 – A. Michaels
  - a) 2nd reading tabled. We have added back in governance language regarding periodic reviews. Alan has a meeting scheduled with Don to discuss defining the process.
4. Open Access Policy update – K. McGuire
  - a) Proposed updates to Policy 13000. Committee has not yet heard back from University Council and hope to bring the new draft to the February 2020 CoR meeting. Alan will send out a reminder to members to review the policy.
5. Public Access to Research Data Committee – E. Grant
  - a) Absent, no update.
6. Faculty Handbook Updates – L. Miner
  - a) Post-docs will remain in the Faculty Handbook as a separate chapter. Working group will meet in early January.

B. OVPRI Update – D. Taylor

1. OVPRI Discussion Series

- a) December 17, 3-4:30pm in Steger Hall. Trudy Riley will give a presentation on the Office of Sponsored Programs.
- b) Spring Series will be out soon and will include talks on: SIRC, Foreign Influence, Strategic Alliances, Investment Institutes

2. OVPRI updates

- a) Our new goal for extramural funding is \$410M by 2024. Strategies for research growth include: Benchmark and measure, broadening the base, targeting big wins, smart infrastructure growth, coordination of efforts, and developing administrative strategies. We are starting to think of these things, and anticipate within a few years' we will have a viable plan. Don will send out a presentation elaborating on the strategies and would appreciate any feedback.
- b) Some positive growth areas include a new relationship with Children's National Hospital, as well as an increase in the private sector, with the help of LINK / License / Launch for high-risk projects and philanthropy. We have also seen state funding increase, including the recent investment of the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative.

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)

2020

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