

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

September 14, 2011
325 Burruss Hall
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Randy Wynne (Chair), Lay Nam Chang, Dennis Dean, Guru Ghosh, Serkan Gugercin, Terry Herdman, William Huckle, Delbert Jones, William Knocke, Bradley Martens, Jeff Moore, and Tammy Bose (Recording Secretary).

Absent: Michael Akers, Kevin Davy, Jesus de la Garza, Heather Moorefield-Lang, Annie Pearce, Anita Puckett, Arnab Roy, Robert Walters, and Chris Zobel.

Guests: Rodd Hall (for R. Walters), Jason Deane (for C. Zobel), Dongmin Liu (for K. Davy), Ken Miller, Sandra Muse, and Don Taylor.

I. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was offered, seconded and was carried.

II. Approval of the minutes for CoR meeting of May 11, 2011: A motion was made to adopt the May 11, 2011 minutes without modifications and the motion was carried.

III. Announcements:

a. Welcome and Introduction of Commission Members: R. Wynne read the Commission on Research charter to the members. Guests and new members present were introduced: Guru Ghosh, Jeff Moore.

b. Schedule of FY11-12 CoR Meetings: R. Wynne announced the dates for the Commission for the FY 2011-12 meetings. The October meeting will include the library dean, Tyler Walters. The November meeting will include Paul Knox and other members of the strategic planning group. All meetings will be held in the 325 Burruss Hall conference room, except the December meeting, which will be held in 201 Burruss Hall.

Meeting Schedule for the FY2011:

September 14, 2011
October 12, 2011
November 9, 2011
December 14, 2011
January – No Meeting
February 8, 2012
March 14, 2012
April 11, 2012
May 9, 2012

c. Potential Focus Areas for the CoR for FY11-12: R. Wynne listed several items that will be the focus of the Commission for FY 2011-12: representation of Special Research Faculty (SRF) in governance, involvement in the strategic planning process, review of the Conflicts of Interest (COI) Task Force findings, revision of Policy 13010 on conflict of interest and commitment, and issues related to the library.

W. Huckle mentioned that the COI Task Force, chaired by Pat Hyer and Beth Tranter, will be addressing issues of consulting and COI, especially when faculty have dealings of a

financial nature with outside companies. The Public Health Service and NIH will soon be issuing financial guidelines relating to when financial data has to be reported and guidelines for the documentation of policies training. The committee consists of 20 members whose role is to review and revise the current Policy 13010 regarding the area of consulting and commitment conflicts of interest. Two sessions on 13010 at future Commission meetings are planned; one to review the updates of federal policy changes, and another to review the proposed modifications to Policy 13010.

IV. Unfinished Business:

a. Standing Committee Reports

i. Library Committee: No report.

ii. Personnel Committee: R. Wynne reported that the revised policy 13005 with respect to centers' governance may require a change in how the Commission is involved in evaluating directors. More will be forthcoming in future meetings.

iii. Special Research Faculty (SRF) Task Force: Don Taylor, the chair of the Special Research Faculty committee, gave a report that summarized the committee's recommendations. See attached document entitled "Special Research Faculty Task Force Final Recommendations, June 2011." W. Knocke noted that the Commission needs to maintain ownership of the governance issues that may arise regarding research faculty. There was a suggestion that a listserv be created to better communicate with the entire body of research faculty. The two key areas for the Commission to address were identified as the governance of the SRF and providing additional structure to the promotion process. D. Taylor recommended follow-up with Jack Finney on these issues.

W. Knocke reported that he and R. Hall have met with Dwight Shelton and K. Miller regarding the creation of a central pool of funds to support SRF and the specific logistics for its use. A small task force will be formed to address bridge funding.

iv. Intellectual Properties Committee: W. Knocke reported that the Intellectual Property (IP) committee meets September 21, 2011. Dr. Walters recommended to W. Knocke that the committee review and update the intellectual properties section of Policy 13010. In the recent *Stanford v. Roche* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the Bayh-Dole Act does not automatically vest title in an invention to a university when it is a federal contractor. This will impact how Virginia Tech policies are written.

Follow-up on the recent faculty survey has led the committee to focus on providing educational activities related to technology transfer and intellectual property policies. Three-hundred faculty members replied to the survey. The question of IP ownership arises when graduate students are not compensated by the university for their research. There are many situations related to undergraduate project design and disclosure in which the IP ownership is unclear.

v. Institute Reviews: W. Knocke reported that there are two institute reviews scheduled for this fiscal year. ICTAS will be reviewed this fall and VTTI in the spring. In performing the reviews, administrators of the institute will refer to the new version of Policy 13005, which has been posted on the web site. Policy 13005 calls for representation from the Commission in the institute review process. Dennis Dean has agreed to participate on the review team and set up the necessary subcommittees to obtain outside input.

b. Research Administrative Systems: R. Hall reported that the committee decided to proceed with the purchase the Cayuse 424 system. Cayuse 424 is intended to be the interface between the individual faculty and the federal government grant entities, such

as grants.gov. Approximately 40 percent of the research grants and contracts that go through Virginia Tech will be able to be handled by the new system. Cayuse 424 is designed to automatically upload standard faculty information into the system when an individual applies for a federal grant and attaches it to information unique to that opportunity. The system prevents errors that are commonly made in the submission process. Matt Swift and Linda Bucy are the team leaders for the implementation and training of faculty on the new system. Additionally, the committee decided that there is not one system available that will function well enterprise-wide. Vice Presidents Blythe, Walters, and Shelton approved the internal development of a system that will be developed module-by-module, focused on the largest area of needs. Some of the modules may already exist on campus and need to be expanded and also be modified to meet strict guidelines regarding the development and operations of enterprise systems.

c. Realignment of University Centers: W. Knocke reported that two centers will remain under the auspices of OVPR: the Interdisciplinary Center for Applied Mathematics (ICAM) and the Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute (MII). Both centers have put together stakeholders committees.

d. Industrial Affiliates Programs: W. Knocke reported that the Industrial Affiliates Programs (IAP) task group has finalized new procedures for the program and these will be posted on the web site within the next few days. There will be meetings with directors to make sure they understand the significant changes that were made. Part of the challenge with evaluating IAPs has been determining how many IAPs actually exist, since some do not have fund numbers. It was determined that currently approximately 24 IAPs are involved in research activities. The programs vary in size, but one IAP has an annual expenditure of 3 million dollars.

e. Update on Proposed Revision of Policy 3020: W. Knocke reported that the revised Policy 3020, the companion to Policy 13005, was issued by Dwight Shelton's office just before the academic year began and is now posted on the web. Knocke noted that all centers that are developed within an institute will now be required to have a charter.

f. University Strategic Plan: R. Wynne reported that the Commission will be involved in strategic planning and has invited Paul Knox to attend the November meeting.

V. New Business:

a. Vice Chair Selection: R. Wynne announced that Michael Akers of Dairy Science has accepted the nomination for the Vice Chair position for FY 2011-12, and has agreed to be elected in absentia. The Chair announced a call for further nominations. There being no further nominations, it was moved that the nominations be closed and this was seconded. A motion to elect M. Akers as Vice Chair was presented and seconded. A vote was taken and M. Akers was unanimously elected as the Vice Chair of the Commission on Research for the FY 2011-12.

b. SRF Task Force Recommendations: W. Knocke reported that the key focus areas for the task force will be the integration of research faculty into governance and their career development and promotion. R. Wynne suggested it would be better to work on these issues in smaller groups in a special non-standing committee and for the committee to then report to the Commission with specific recommendations.

D. Dean is part of a presidential commission to look into health sciences issues, and that report has been submitted to the president and provost. It was suggested that this report be presented to the Commission. This presentation will be placed on a future

Commission meeting agenda.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.