

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

September 14, 2016
130 Burruss Conference Room
3:30pm – 5:00pm

MINUTES

Attendee: Benjamin Corl (Chair), Srinath Ekkad, Theresa Mayer, Myra Blanco, Jennifer Irish (Vice-Chair), Geoff Saunders (for Kurt Zimmerman), Scott Klopfer, Bruce Vogelaar, Tom Bell, Van Crowder, Pat Donovan (for Steve Nagle), Dipankar Chakravarti, Ginny Pannabecker, Kevin McGuire, Saied Mostaghimi, Sally Morton, Stefan Duma, Nancy Dudek, Samantha Fried and Monica Rich (recorder).

Absent: Barbara Lockee, Cheryl Carrico, Andrew Neilson

Guest: Sandra Muse, Rachel Gabrielle (for Peggy Layne), Ken Miller, Vicky Ratcliffe, Linda Bucy and Lance Franklin

- I. Approval of the Agenda - A motion was made and the agenda was approved.

- II. Announcements
 - a. Introduction of New COR Members – Introductions were given around the room.
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of May 11, 2016 – The meeting minutes were approved electronically.
 - c. Mark your calendars for FY2016-17 COR Meetings – Full meeting schedule was noted.
 - d. Andrew Neilson COR Representative to Shared Governance Task Force – B. Corl shared that Andrew Neilson would represent COR on a task force formed by the President. The task force was formed in response to a resolution to add faculty senate interaction with resolutions submitted by other commissions with an option to submit a letter of opinion before UC approval. The second purpose in forming this task force is to determine how shared governance is managed at the University.

- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. Report of Ongoing Activities
 - i. University Library Committee – V. Pannabecker reported that the committee is yet to meet this year. Increased funding is available for open access publications submissions. Two new people have been hired in the data services area. EFARS will be a back-end for updating publications repositories. The library hopes to introduce VIVO this spring.
 - ii. Update from Faculty Senate – B. Corl reported they have met twice. In the first meeting, the Provost came with Tim Hodge and Ken Smith to discuss a change in budgeting. And, Mike Friedlander came to discuss changes for developing a college within the University for the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. At the second meeting, Steve Culver, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, noted revisions and changes to the Student Perception Of Teaching (SPOT) survey have led to declining participation. Culver came to discuss the possibility of partnering with the senate in revising the survey.
 - iii. Centers and Institutes Update – S. Ekkad reported that the following reviews are complete: Fralin Life Science Institute, Dr. Roop Majahan, and Dr. Tom Dingus.

Reviews in progress now are Ben Knapp as director of ICAT and ICAT, the institute. This review is being conducted by the Provost and VPRI jointly and should be complete by November. The review of VTCRI should also be complete by November. The ICAM review will begin soon.

- b. Committee on Research Competitiveness (CRC) – Jen Irish reported the COR CRC prioritized the Spring 2015 faculty survey responses based on university priorities to (1) attract and retain faculty and student talent, (2) enhance ability to attract funding, (3) enhance international and national visibility, and (4) promote entrepreneurship. The CRC, in collaboration with Drs. Rikakis and Mayer last spring, thus identified the following common high-priority goals:
 - Sustain successful and productive research programs.
 - Increase research funding from prominent, external sources (e.g., philanthropic foundations, industry).
 - Ensure access to large, state-of-the-art instrumentation.In FY17, COR's CRC plans to coordinate with other campus entities to solicit additional feedback from faculty via focus groups in the above three areas. The CRC is soliciting new members from COR.
- c. Topics for COR FY2016-17 – B. Corl reported on the suggested topics for discussion and asked for any new topics.

IV. New Business

- a. Comparing APLU's Safety Culture Guidelines to Virginia Tech's Practices – Lance Franklin gave an overview on safety for the University and the results of compliance thereof.
- b. Overview of New On-Line Conflict of Interest (COI) System – V. Ratcliffe The Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation has launched a Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Management System (COISystem). The online system will replace Form 13010 Request to Engage in External Activity and Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and Commitment. This form is required by Policy 13010 Individual Conflicts of Interest and Commitment when employees plan to engage in certain outside activities or report financial interests to the university. The desired outcome of this system is to reduce disclosure completion time and to streamline the review and approval of disclosures. <https://secure.research.vt.edu/coi>

V. Adjournment – 4:45pm