

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

October 12, 2011

325 Burruss Hall

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Randy Wynne (Chair), Michael Akers, Lay Nam Chang, Kevin Davy, Dennis Dean, Jesus de la Garza, Serkan Gugercin, Terry Herdman, William Huckle, William Knocke, Bradley Martens, Jeff Moore, Annie Pearce, Anita Puckett, Wornie Reed, Arnab Roy, Chris Zobel and Tammy Bose (Recording Secretary).

Absent: Guru Ghosh, Delbert Jones, Heather Moorefield-Lang, and Robert Walters.

Guests: Rodd Hall (for R. Walters), Gary Long, Sandra Muse, and Elizabeth Tranter.

I. Approval of Agenda: A revised agenda was presented, and a motion was made to approve the revised agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

II. Announcements

a. Approval and Posting of the minutes of September 14, 2011: R. Wynne reported that the minutes from the last meeting on September 14, 2011 were approved by the membership electronically and are available on the Commission Scholar site.

b. Correction of the Posted Schedule of FY11-12 CoR Meetings: R. Wynne noted the corrections made on the agenda to the dates for the Commission meetings for April and May 2012.

c. Introduction of Vice Chair: R. Wynne introduced Vice Chair Michael Akers, and a welcome was extended to new Commission members not present at September's meeting.

III. Unfinished Business:

a. Report of Ongoing Activities

i. Library Committee: No report.

ii. Special Research Faculty (SRF) Task Force Recommendations: R. Wynne deferred this report to item IV.c. on the agenda: Proposed Revision of Standing Committees.

iii. Intellectual Properties (IP) Committee: W. Knocke reported the committee continues to focus on the revision of Policy 13000, and providing educational activities for faculty related to technology transfer and intellectual property policies. It is envisioned that a draft revision of Policy 13000 may be developed by the IP Committee either late in 2011 or early in 2012. The IP Committee will at that point coordinate its entrance into a governance review of the revised Policy 13000 with the Task Force on Conflict of Interest (COI) as it seeks to pursue approvals for revised COI policies within governance. The sub-committees of the IP Committee will give a progress report at the November meeting.

iv. Institute Reviews: W. Knocke reported that there are two institute reviews scheduled for this fiscal year. The committee for the review of ICTAS, with Scott

Midkiff as chair, met last week. Two external consultants will participate in the review, but not serve as members. The report is due at the end of the semester. The VTTI review committee will be assembled by the end of the semester in order to be prepared to do the review in the spring. The committee for the review of ICAM needs just one more member to be complete and will begin its work this semester.

b. University Strategic Plan: R. Wynne reported that Paul Knox will be at the November meeting to discuss the strategic planning process.

IV. New Business:

a. Conflict of Interest Task Force Update: R. Wynne introduced Elizabeth Tranter, who gave a presentation on the activities of the Task Force on Consulting and Conflict of Interest, of which she and Pat Hyer serve as co-chairs. Motivations for the creation of the Task Force included the need for clarification of policies, approval procedures, processes, training/dissemination and oversight, the increasingly complex regulatory environment, the need for additional guidance and examples in selected areas, and new sponsor requirements, including training. The presentation addressed the formation of the Task Force, the work of the Task Force to date, and goals for the current academic year. Ms. Tranter also reported that the Public Health Service (PHS), which includes the National Institute of Health (NIH) as well as other research funding agencies, has issued new regulations relating to reporting of significant financial interests, training requirements for investigators, and public accessibility of information regarding significant financial interests of grant recipients. These new policies were reviewed in detail. As of August 24, 2012, NIH will require that there be a COI designee on campus to ensure consistent application of policy, to manage disclosures and management plans for identified conflicts of interest. The new NIH regulations will require that all investigators, students and consultants on grants receive training and comply with COI regulations. Since the PHS has adopted these policies, it is likely that more stringent regulations will be adopted by other federal agencies as well. See attached presentation titled "Task Force on Consulting and Conflict of Interest."

Ms. Tranter's presentation was the first of two informational presentations to be delivered to the Commission in Fall 2011. The presentation at the November meeting of the Commission will focus on proposed modifications to Policy 13010. The Task Force on Consulting and Conflict of Interest has drafted a COI policy, and the first reading of this policy will be presented to the Commission in December.

b. Impact of Proposed MMTF Location on Research in Derring: Gary Long of the Faculty Senate introduced an issue of concern. The site for a fifteen-bus Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF) is, at present, planned for the Derring Hall parking lot (<http://www.facilities.vt.edu/tcs/mmtf.asp>). The location of the bus hub is a major concern for the College of Science, as there is concern that emissions from the buses will be carried to the air intake vents in both Derring and Hahn Halls, as well as other laboratory buildings in the area. If it is significant, as feared, the bus exhaust will have a detrimental impact on the air quality, impacting sensitive research equipment and personnel in the buildings. The Faculty Senate is requesting that the Commission deliberate on this issue and present a request to the University Council that an air quality impact study be done before the MMTF is constructed.

A motion was made that the Commission address the issue of the lack of an air quality impact study in relation to the MMTF location. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was presented that a small MMTF committee within the Commission be formed to address this issue. The motion was seconded and carried. L. Chang, A. Pearce, and A. Puckett comprise the committee. G. Long from the Faculty Senate will be an ex officio member. The purpose of the committee is to deliberate the need to draft a resolution to put a moratorium on current MMTF construction plans until an air quality impact study can be conducted. A motion was presented that the Commission on Research representative raise this as an “expression of concern” at the next University Council meeting. The motion was seconded and carried. A vote was taken and it was unanimously approved.

c. Proposed Revision of Standing Committees: R. Wynne proposed reorganizing the standing committees to make them more relevant to the business of the Commission. A motion was made to reorganize the Commission’s standing committees, and the motion was seconded and carried. The name of the Personnel Committee was changed to the Human Resources Committee, and its auspices extended to include Research Faculty. The Centers and Institutes Committee and the Research Administration Committee were formed. These committees will review related issues in smaller groups and then present items to the Commission as appropriate. The Human Resources Committee was specifically tasked to review the Task Force Report on Special Research Faculty and to make specific recommendations on issues which it believes can be addressed through governance. A motion to approve the committee structure as recommended by the Chair was made and seconded, and a vote was taken and the standing committee revisions were unanimously approved.

CoR Sub-Committee Members

Research Administration	Centers and Institutes	Human Resources
Chair: Kevin Davy	Chair: Dennis Dean	Chair: Michael Akers
Bradley Martens	Guru Ghosh	Bill Huckle
Anita Puckett	Serkan Gugercin	Wornie Reed
R. Wynne (ex officio)	Bill Knocke	Sandra Muse (ex officio)
Rodd Hall (for Bob Walters)	Chema de la Garza	Rodd Hall (for Bob Walters)
Annie Pearce	Arnab Roy	Jeff Moore
		Delbert Jones

V. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.