

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

December 10, 2014
325 Burruss Conference Room
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Minutes

Attendee: France Belanger (Chair), Randy Wynne (Vice Chair), Ben Knapp, Tom Inzana, Jesus de la Garza, Srinath Ekkad, Chreston Miller (for Nathan Hall), Iuliana Lazar, Elizabeth Grant (for Annie Pearce), Barbara Lockee, Robert Vogelaar, Cheryl Carrico, Scott Klopfer, Sue Teel, Tara Reel, Jewell Trent, Erin Ling (for Jonah Fogel) and Monica Rich (recorder).

Absent: Paul Knox, Adrian Ares, Chris Lawrence, Robert Walters, Alan Grant, and Jake Tully

Guest: Peggy Layne, Ken Miller, Jennifer Irish, and Sandra Muse

- I. Approval of the Agenda – A motion was made and the agenda was approved.
- II. Announcements
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of November 12, 2014 – A motion was made and the minutes of November 12, 2014 were approved as revised.
 - b. Next meeting on February 11, 2015 – F. Belanger informed the committee of the next meeting date.
 - c. 5-Year Review of Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE) and the Fralin Life Science Institute – S. Ekkad reported the 5 year reviews of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute (Fralin) and Institute for Society, Culture, and the Environment (ISCE) will be done this year. The review committees will include stakeholders from different units. The review committee for ISCE has been charged. The Fralin committee will be formed shortly. Typically there is one COR committee member on the review committee. F. Belanger will represent COR for the ISCE review and R. Wynne will represent COR for the Fralin review.
 - d. Vice President for Research Search Committee – F. Belanger reported that the Search Firm Isaacson, Miller will handle the search for the new VP for Research. F. Belanger will represent the COR on this search committee. One topic of discussion during the search committee meeting was “How do we go from good to great” in terms of research at the university. The firm has asked for nominations. Committee members were asked to contact Michael Baer at mbaer@imsearch.com if you know of anyone that would be a good candidate or of someone that knows someone that is good.
 - e. Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties (VTIP) Board of Directors – R. Walters asked that the COR identify three faculty nominees from which the VTIP board will select one member to serve. Members of COR who are interested in serving should email F. Belanger by December 15. F. Belanger will forward the nominations to R. Walters. The appointment to the board is a three year appointment that begins July 2015.
 - f. B. Knapp announced to the commission that Virginia Tech will be hosting the national Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (A2RU) conference to be held in fall 2015. A2RU is a partnership of over thirty institutions committed to transforming research universities in order to ensure the greatest possible institutional support for interdisciplinary research, curricula, programs and creative practice between the arts, sciences and other disciplines. Planning is now underway.

III. Unfinished Business

- a. Report of Ongoing Activities
 - i. University Library Committee – C. Miller reported the current building construction should end by next week.
 - ii. Centers and Institutes Update – S. Ekkad reported the Bio Inspired Science & Technology Center is approved. He just received the draft for the Global Change Center charter. The charter will need to go through the process of being approved.
 - iii. Research Faculty Initiatives
 1. HR Sub-committee – No Report
 - iv. Research Administration – M. Daniel was absent from the meeting. F. Belanger reported that M. Daniel will have a report on all software projects to present at the February meeting.
- b. Update on Academy of Faculty Service – B. Lockee reported this committee was formed to recognize exceptional service for faculty members. The committee reviewed the nominations and sent them on to the provost office. The winners will be announced in January.
- c. COR Committee on Policy 13015 Ownership and Control of Research Results – R. Wynne reported the committee met and discovered that there is a prominent role of the department heads. The department heads have not responded as of yet so the committee is at a standstill. R. Wynne will contact the department heads and hopes to have a report at the February meeting.
- d. COR/CFA Joint Committee on Policy 13020, Misconduct in Research regarding Self-Plagiarism – F. Belanger reported an issue with doctoral student and their dissertations being in electronic format. If published, would it be self-plagiarism? Gail McMillan of the Library confirmed electronic dissertations are not considered “published”. F. Belanger lead a significant discussion about the wording of the recommended revision and a consensus was given to redraft the sentence to “At Virginia Tech, self-plagiarism is considered unethical behavior. Therefore, it is not covered by this policy but is addressed in the Faculty and Graduate Students Handbooks.”
- e. COR Committee on Research Needs – F. Belanger – I. Lazar, committee chair reported the committee met last Friday. The purpose of the committee is to identify needs the faculty have for performing productive research and the outcome of not meeting these needs both short and long term. Five categories of issues were identified:
 - a. Teaching Support for Faculty
 - b. Reporting and Administrative Support Staff
 - c. Sponsor Research Administration
 - d. Research Resources and Funding
 - e. Research Metrics and RecognitionThe committee thought it would be best to send out a poll to faculty on campus and will need the help of the COR. The committee will meet again in January. A concern was raised about the use of a survey only. In addition to the survey, should a focus group be formed and include people that are succeeding despite the system?

IV. New Business

V. Adjournment 4:32pm