COMMISSION ON RESEARCH MINUTES
December 12, 2012
325 Burruss Conference Room
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Members Present: Mike Akers (Chair), Angelica Melvin, Lay Nam Chang, Bill Knocke, Iuliana Lazar, Tom Inzana, Kevin Davy, Dennis Dean, Chris Lawrence, Anita Puckett, Chris Zobel, Heather Moorefield-Lang, Amanda Shea and Monica Rich (recorder).

Absent: Bradley Martens, Terry Herdman, Guru Ghosh, Jesus de la Garza and Annie Pearce.

Guest: Martin Daniel (for Bob Walters), Marc Stern (for Randy Wynne), Sue Teel (for Leslie Thornton-O'Brien), Peggy Layne, Amel Cuskovic and Sandra Muse.

I.   Approval of the Agenda:
    a. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was offered, seconded and was carried.
II. Announcements:
    a. Approval and Posting of the minutes of November 14, 2012.
III. Unfinished Business:
    a. Report on Ongoing Activities:
        i.   University Library committee: Scale up classroom should be finished next month. Hired new associate director, Lauren Pressley joining late February. She will work directly with Brian Matthews, associate dean.
        ii. Centers and Institutes update: B. Knocke - No update.
        iii. Research Faculty Initiatives: M. Akers reported resolution 2012-2013A to change the name of "Special Research Faculty" to "Research Faculty" was passed by University Council. Resolution will now go to the BOV in March, 2013.
        iv. Research Administration: M. Daniel – 1. Agreement tracking system. The project Steering Team approved the Research Administration Team to move forward with developing an agreement tracking system using a tool called "Jira." This will allow to the team to develop and implement a system in this fiscal year. The implementation of the Agreements Tracking module will add transparency and accountability to sponsored projects agreements. 2. Budget Development Tool. Development of a budget tool has been advanced in the schedule. The team is developing more comprehensive tools that will better interface with "Cayuse 424." 3. Research Portal. The research portal is live as a tab in "MyVT" but has limited content. The team is adding functionality to allow PIs to access information about their projects. Eventually, the portal will serve as a single location for information on projects. The team expects to widely publicize the portal next month following the addition of more functionality. 4. ReST Project, now renamed "Salary Management Tool." Enterprise systems is working with the College of Engineering to develop a series of reports to help departmental business managers and PI's manage salaries charged to projects. No project timelines have been developed yet. 5. The research team is re-considering "Cayuse SP" as a possible solution to a care research system. This product has matured since it was last reviewed and has been implemented by several schools that also use Banner administrative software.

b. Resolution for Governance Representation for Research Faculty – The commission was briefed on feedback from the Faculty Senate regarding an inquiry to allow research faculty governance participation. S. Muse provided a current breakdown of research faculty by senior management area and rank to aid in discussion. As the Faculty Senate plans to review a number of by-laws items in spring 2013, a motion was made to table the COR draft resolution regarding governance. Motion made and accepted.

IV. New Business:

a. Mentoring of Special Research Faculty – M. Akers and S. Muse – Task force on research faculty recommended this to be looked into. Currently there is no outline of good mentoring practices for research faculty at Virginia Tech. A recent review of mentoring by the Provost's Office did not specifically address research faculty. A number of recommendations by the National Postdoctoral Association were discussed. It was determined through discussion that commission members view mentoring and mentoring responsibilities vastly different. Examples of other university mentoring plans will be brought to the next meeting for further discussion.

V. Adjournment:

a. 4:51PM