

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
September 6, 2017
130 Burruss Conference Room
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Attendee: Jennifer Irish (Chair), Ginny Pannabecker (Vice-Chair), Benjamin Corl, Tom Bell, Dipankar Chakravarti, Steve Nagle, Stefan Duma, Van Crowder, Nancy Dudek, Randy Heflin (for Sally Morton), Uri Kahanovitch, Kevin McGuire, Deborah Milly, Joey Ernst (for Alan Michaels), Rachel Rupnow, Stephen Smith (for Kurt Zimmerman) and Sandra Muse (recorder)

Absent: Theresa Mayer, Srinath Ekkad, Saied Mostaghimi, Andrew Neilson, Nathan King and Myra Blanco

Guest: Peggy Layne, Ken Miller and Barbara Lockee

- I. Approval of the Agenda – A motion was made and the agenda was approved.
- II. Announcements
 - a. Welcome Members – J. Irish welcomed everyone and each member identified themselves and the area they represented.
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of May 10, 2017 – J. Irish announced the meeting minutes were approved electronically.
 - c. COR Schedule for FY2017-18 – J. Irish asked the members to update their calendars now for all future meetings as listed on the agenda noting the October meeting has been moved up a week.
 - d. Commission Topics for FY2017-18 – J. Irish noted meeting with Dr. Mayer to discuss the list of potential topics for COR for the coming year and to identify OVPRI's highest priorities for the coming year. A list of six was developed some of which were brought forward from last year.
 - i. The COR Committee on Research Competitiveness will continue
 - ii. Open Access Policy Development
 - iii. Update to Policy 13005 on Center & Institutes
 - iv. Communication of Facilities and Administration (F&A)
 - v. Resolutions related to handbook changes to include Overload Pay, Promotion and Tenure Guidelines and Signature Authority
 - vi. Discussing postdoctoral scholar activitiesOver the next month, additional recommendations for topics may be emailed to J. Irish, jirish@vt.edu or brought to the next meeting. Irish also indicated the desire to have all members participate on at least one committee to better assure an engaged commission this year.
- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. Report of Ongoing Activities
 - i. University Library Committee – G. Pannabecker indicated there was no report.
 - ii. Update from Faculty Senate – Stephen Smith reported the faculty senate agenda included taking nominees for committees, councils and commission needing representation, and discussing priorities such as their potential actions to address the DEKA initiative.
 - b. Committee on Research Competitiveness – B. Lockee provided a handout and gave an overview of the Committee on Research Competitiveness' work of last year. The primary endeavor

decided for last year was to conduct some focus groups with faculty to learn about issues and challenges and get some ideas on strategic planning related to research instrumentation in general. Dr. Mayer was especially interested in the notion of shared instrumentation. In the spring, ten focus groups were conducted. One focus group included lab managers and nine focus groups consisted of T/R faculty. Faculty nominations were received from multiple colleges who had significant usage of research instrumentation. There was great enthusiasm in participating. The groups were guided by questions in topic areas of what are your challenges, what are your ideas in terms of models for instrumentation, what are the strengths and challenges at Virginia Tech, what kind of peer models should be considered, instrumentation needs and finally, recommendations. The report is a draft which once accepted by the Commission will be shared with the faculty. S. Muse gave the Commission members some background of how the committee was formed and how they moved forward. Stefan Duma agree to chair the Competitive Committee for this fiscal year.

- c. Open Access Policy Draft – G. Pannabecker and K. McGuire identified members of the Open Access Policy Committee and noted additional training sessions have been scheduled for the fall. A list of scheduled training will be provided after the meeting. A website with definitions and FAQs is being established and should be available soon.
- d. Update to Policy 13005 – J. Irish noted that T. Mayer had requested a committee be formed now to begin work later in the year to revise Policy 13005 on centers and institutes. K. Miller volunteered to chair the committee. Others interested in participating should contact J. Irish.
- e. Task Force on Shared Governance Update – There was no report.
- f. Update on Revisions to Faculty Handbook – S. Muse reported that the requested revisions to the faculty handbook, which had been brought to and supported by the Commission last year as administrative changes, have been brought back to the Commission requiring resolutions. Draft resolutions will be prepared and brought to the Commission for a vote. Volunteers may be needed to review wording of the resolutions.

IV. New Business – There was no new business.

V. Adjournment at 4:30pm