

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

April 14, 2010
325 Burruss Hall
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: J. Ball, L. Coble, S. K. De Datta, J. de la Garza, R. Hall, T. Herdman, W. Huckle, T. Inzana, R. Jensen, D. Jones, J. Jones, B. Laing, S. Martin, K. Miller, R. Siegle, R. Veilleux, P. Young

Members Absent: R. Benson, D. Dean, G. Kadlec (for D. Cook), T. Fox, S. Samavedi

Others: P. Hyer, S. Muse, C. Montgomery

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was offered by L. Coble and seconded by S. Martin and carried.
- 2. Approval of the minutes for CoR meetings March 17, 2010:** R. Veilleux noted that the meeting location was 260 Durham, not 301 Burruss, and J. de la Garza noted that R. Walters attendance needed to be recorded. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was offered by R. Veilleux and seconded by T. Inzana and carried.
- 3. Report from Library Committee and Open-Access Policy Resolution:** P. Young reported the Library committee participated in a web assessment on the library website. The two main findings were changes in terminology that need to be made on the site, and improvements to the off-campus sign-in site.

P. Young also reported that he is working on a draft resolution for the Open-Access policy which will be sent to the Faculty Senate.

- 4. VT Research Corporation:** S. Muse reported that the Board of Visitors approved the affiliation of the corporation with Virginia Tech. At our last meeting, R. Walters requested nominations of three faculty members for the VTRC board of directors. Discussions were held on the appropriate action to name these nominees. S. Muse suggested that we contact the Associate Deans for Research for suggested names. L. Coble suggested that the pool be expanded to include all colleges and the VBI director. Further discussion included the ICTAS director. A motion to approve the chair delivering this request was offered by B. Huckle and seconded by T. Inzana and carried.
- 5. Current Center Reviews & Director Reviews:** T. Inzana reported that the committees for both the MII and CHCI center reviews are in the process of conducting interviews. A report will be developed upon the conclusion of these interviews and the findings from the surveys.

R. Hall reported that all surveys are complete for the three institute directors. Packages containing these results have been sent to personnel committee members R. Jensen and J. de la Garza. Upon the review of these materials, the personnel

committee will forward a summary of their findings to R. Walters and the stakeholders committee chairs of each of the centers/institutes.

6. Draft Faculty Handbook Language, Federal Contract Compliance: P. Hyer outlined changes to the documents since the last discussion with the CoR. The effective date was clarified as Fall 2010, allowing summer 2010 to be a transition. University savings derived from the movement of fringe benefit charges from the summer to the academic year would be returned to the colleges/departments to cover costs of extra fringes. Additional flexibility was added to Policy 6200, Research Extended Appointments, by allowing overhead to be used as a 'back-up' funding source. However overhead cannot be used as justification for the research extended appointment, nor can it be used to sustain an extended appointment in absence of adequate sponsored funding. Annual leave for those on research extended appointments will be reinstated, and those who convert in the spring will be automatically granted five days of leave to ensure at least a week of annual leave for the first summer. There is no payout for unused leave at the time of reconversion or separation. Some of the language regarding summer vacation was removed. However, the university's position has not changed; faculty members on AY appointments do not earn or accrue annual leave. References to biweekly pay periods during the summer were replaced with a reference to effort certification across the entire summer. Language concerning de minimis activities was adapted from a national report on best practices; these are activities so insignificant that they don't warrant reporting. Additional clarifications were added stating that a faculty member cannot work on a new grant proposal while charged to a sponsored project unless it is a non-competitive continuation of that same grant.

P. Hyer reported that the Commission on Faculty Affairs voted to approve these changes. She requested the CoR's support and vote as well so that the documents could be forwarded for review and approval by University Council. S. Martin reported that this topic had been discussed at the Faculty Senate the previous evening and that there were no other suggestions or comments from that body. R. Jensen noted that faculty would be more reassured if they knew that all the colleges were working toward developing a way to track and escrow departmental salary savings. K. Miller reported that all the college fiscal officers are currently working on developing their own processes. After other discussions, B. Huckle requested any specific comments or suggestions, and there were none. A motion to approve the resolution was offered by B. Huckle and seconded by J. de la Garza and carried.

7. Resolution on Outside Employment: P. Hyer reported the current policy prohibiting regular outside employment is more restrictive than most other universities, and she proposed to delete the last sentence of the consulting policy and replace it with new language allowing outside employment with supervisor approval. "Outside employment" is employment that does not meet the definition and intent of the consulting policy. Supervisor approval is still required to assure that the primary commitment to the university is fulfilled. P. Hyer explained that her goal in revising this policy is to allow the university to be reasonable and flexible on this matter when warranted and when an employee's job performance is not jeopardized.

P. Hyer requested feedback and comments from the CoR regarding this policy. J. de la Garza suggested that the language defining the work week be written as it is in the Faculty Handbook. P. Hyer reported that it was interpreted the same way, and that it was a 'WHEREAS' statement. P. Hyer agreed to make this change and a motion to approve was offered by R. Jensen and seconded by S. Martin and carried.

- 8. Virginia Center for Housing Research:** S. Muse reported that a formal request was received to merge the Virginia Center for Housing Research and the Metropolitan Institute, and that the resulting institute would remain under the name of the later. The center would no longer be a university research center, but a center under the Metropolitan Institute. S. Muse also reported that the former director of the VA Center for Housing Research, Casey Dawkins, is now the director for the Metropolitan Institute.

A motion to accept this request was made by R. Jensen and seconded by J. de la Garza and carried. B. Huckle reported that a letter would be sent to Casey Dawkins and copied to R. Walters.

- 9. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by L. Coble and seconded by T. Inzana and the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.