

## COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

February 10, 2016

325 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm – 5:00pm

### Minutes

Attendee: Randy Wynne (Chair), Benjamin Corl (Vice Chair), Srinath Ekkad, Martin Daniel (for Theresa Mayer), Sandra Muse (for Scott Klopfer), Annie Pearce, Jewell Trent, Alan Grant, Myra Blanco, Jennifer Irish, Ben Knapp, Nathan Hall, Barbara Lockee, Robert Vogelaar, Sue Teel, Tom Bell, Erin Ling (for Jonah Fogel), Kaveh Rahimi, Kurt Zimmerman and Monica Rich (recorder)

Absent: Paul Knox. Van Crowder, Cheryl Carrico, Stephen Hensell and COB representative (France Belanger on sabbatical)

Guest: John Rudd, Ken Miller, Diana Alexander and Peggy Layne

- I. Approval of the Agenda - A motion was made and the agenda was approved.
- II. Announcements
  - a. Approval of the Minutes of December 9, 2015 – The meeting minutes were approved electronically.
  - b. March meeting moved to March 2, 2016 – R. Wynne reported the meeting has been moved due to Spring Break.
- III. Unfinished Business
  - a. Report of Ongoing Activities
    - i. University Library Committee – N. Hall reported that Peter Potter comes to us from Cornell. Peter is working on the growth of the library and plans to identify older university publications that could be re-released to be sold and to give to donors and alumni who work with researchers to give modern context. Data management will be expanded by two employees.
    - ii. Update from Faculty Senate – B. Corl reported the resolution of February 1 to University Council on shared governance sponsored by faculty affairs was passed. Project management functionality on Scholar was brought up at the meeting.
    - iii. Centers and Institutes Update – S. Ekkad reported there are two new Centers for Soft Matter and Biological Physics. Charters submitted look good for approval. Packaging Center for Innovative solutions has a multi college effect. Trying to bring all packaging under one center on campus. 5-year reviews of VTCRI, and institute directors Tom Dingus (VTTI) and Roop Mahajan (ICTAS) have review committees established and will meet soon. The time frame for completion is one semester. The Provost and VPRI will combine their review for Ben Knapp (ICAT).
    - iv. Research Administration – M. Daniel reported RAS just hired another programmer for the team. Also assigned programming interest in the conflict of interest module. A release date for the new system is expected in early summer.
  - b. Committee on Research Challenges – J. Irish

- i. A motion was made to rename this committee as the Committee on Research Competitiveness to better represent its focus. The motion was approved.
- ii. A letter to Dr. Theresa Mayer regarding the results from the survey which were determined to be under the responsibility of the COR were shared and supported to be delivered to Dr. Mayer with a request to give an initial response during the March 2 COR meeting. The letter was signed by Dr. R. Wynne, chair of COR and Dr. J. Irish, chair of committee on research competitiveness.
- iii. The committee is now preparing to work with other commissions who may more appropriately take the lead with COR support.

IV. New Business

- a. Update on Sponsored Programs Initiatives – J. Rudd discussed some of the issues that surfaced in the faculty survey of February 2015 regarding Sponsored Programs. R. Wynne complimented John and OSP for getting things right and addressing the issues that came up in the survey. A link to the research financials was provided, (<https://www.research.vt.edu/era/research-financials/home>) that Randy demonstrated. This link is available from the Electronic Research Administration page at <http://www.research.vt.edu/era/>.
- b. Presentation on Fringe Benefits – K. Miller presented an overview of how fringe benefits are determined and why fringes on staff are so much higher than on faculty.

V. Adjournment; 4:58pm