

Minutes  
**COMMISSION ON RESEARCH**  
3:30 – 5:00 pm | September 5, 2024  
Zoom Meeting

CoR Documents available to CoR members in [SharePoint Team Drive: COR FY 2024-2025](#)

**Present:** Nicole Pitterson (presiding), Gibran Ali, Thomas Archibald, Manish Bansal, Thomas Bell, Leanna Blevins, Joseph Gaeddert, Ron Gibbons, Dan Givens, Randy Heflin, Ben Knapp, Andrew Krum, Barry Miller, Laurel Miner (for Daniel Sui), Albert Pan, Jonathan Petters, Jorge Reyes, Karen Schnatterly, Ryan Stewart, Quinn Thomas, Caitlin Woodson

**Absent with Notice:** Ella Atkins, Corinne Noirot, David Raymond

**Absent:** Daniel Pauly, Michelle Theus

**Research and Innovation support:** Kim Borkowski

**Guests:** Rob McCarley, April Myers, Melinda West

Nicole Pitterson called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion passed.

**2. Approval of and posting of minutes of April 11, 2024**

Nicole Pitterson noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the Commission on Research Sharepoint.

**3. Presentation**

Albert Pan, Associate Professor, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC and Rob McCarley, Executive Director, Fralin Life Sciences Institute (MII Review Committee Chair), gave a presentation on the Macromolecules Innovation Institute (MII) 5-Year Review ([attached](#)). The presentation included a brief description of MII and its history, as well as a description of the review process. The review committee found that the MII had a strong reputation, elevating Virginia Tech's presence in macromolecular science. The resources provided by MII to faculty undoubtedly contributed to growth of VT research and impact, as well as recruiting and retention of related faculty. The committee had several suggestions for how to elevate and optimize the operations and impact of MII on Virginia Tech's research enterprise. Prior to the meeting, commission members were provided with the final report submitted by the MII 5-Year Review Committee ([attached](#)). At the conclusion of the presentation, the floor opened for discussion. The Commission voted to approve all of the recommendations made by the committee, and to renew the center.

#### **4. Other Items**

Nicole Pitterson led a discussion of the 2024-25 Work Plan for the CoR, which includes eight goals ([attached](#)). The following topics were discussed as potential additional goals for the commission: ensure the inclusion of social sciences in the definition of research; introduce conversations and policies around AI and research; invite expert guests to the commission to provide information on how to elevate research faculty; discuss cross-campus challenges in research; and discuss postdoctoral associate stipend.

#### **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:16pm.