

Minutes  
**COMMISSION ON RESEARCH**  
3:30 – 5:00 pm | October 10, 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, Ella Atkins, 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, Esther Park, Jonathan Petters, Jorge Reyes, Karen Schnatterly, Elizabeth Sicking, Ryan Stewart, Michelle Theus, Quinn Thomas, Sophie Thompson, Esra Büyüktaktın Toy, Caitlin Woodson

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

**Absent:** Daniel Pauly

**Research and Innovation support:** Kim Borkowski

**Guests:** April Myers, Chris Smith, 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 September 5, 2024**

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

**3. Presentation**

Chris Smith, Postdoctoral Affairs Program Administrator, gave a presentation on the Postdoctoral Office at Virginia Tech ([attached](#)). The presentation included a broad overview of the postdoctoral affairs strategic plan, climate survey, presidential postdoctoral fellowship program, as well as resources, programming, and support efforts the postdoctoral affairs office is providing. The floor was open for feedback and discussion on postdoc hiring, training, evaluation and mentorship. A member of the commission raised the challenge associated with required open searches required for postdocs; however, postdocs do not require searches, and this misunderstanding is an opportunity for campus education. Members of the commission supported the opportunity for additional guidance and support on expectation setting and annual reviews for postdocs. Similarly, they suggested that offering mentorship coaching or training as part of the professional development network, for faculty training 'credit', would be useful.

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

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff, Research and Innovation, gave the commission an update on the Innovation Campus. At the end of September, Dean Ross, Provost Clark, and President Sands gave a presentation in Northern Virginia on the work of the Northern Virginia Steering Committee, and one of the recommendations from the steering committee that has been accepted by leadership, is that the academic structure of the Innovation Campus will be an institute. In order to establish the institute, per Policy 13005, the Provost will establish a review committee that will include Deans, other institute directors, and chairs of relevant commissions to study the concept of the Institute, and to help bring together the charter and the proposal for the Institute itself. The charter will then go to relevant commissions for review and advice.

#### **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.