

Minutes

COMMISSION ON RESEARCH

October 10, 2018

130 Burruss Conference Room

3:30pm-5:00pm

COR Documents available to COR members in Team Drive: [COR FY2018-2019](#)

Attended:

Members: Virginia Pannabecker, Theresa Mayer, Saied Mostaghimi, Stefan Duma, Randy Heflin (for Sally Morton), Brian Britt, Robert (Bruce) Vogelaar, Jason He (online), Deborah Milly, Dipankar Chakravarti, Mike Sorice (for Kevin McGuire), Lijuan Yuan, Elizabeth Grant, John Phillips, Nancy Dudek, Uri Kahanovitch, Alan Michaels, Sid Madhavan

OVPRI: Laurel Miner, Diane Zielinski

Guests: Menah Pratt-Clarke, Erin McCann, Patricia Becksted from Strategic Affairs; Peggy Layne

- I. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Approved by vote

- II. Approval of September Minutes
 - A. Approved by email

- III. Announcements
 - A. [Policy 13020](#) recently had a few technical edits to update the policy with correct contact names and organizational area names
 - B. Research Policies are listed here:
<https://www.research.vt.edu/compliance/research-policies-procedures.html>

- IV. Logistics Follow up - V. Pannabecker
 - A. Faculty Senate relationship to COR; VT Governance Overview presentation in COR FY2018-2019 Team Drive
 - B. Presentations at the last year's meetings (minutes describe presentation and discussion; Slides are at the end of the minutes)
 1. Link presentation by Brandy Salmon - [October 4, 2017](#)
 2. VT-ARC overview by Sanjay Raman - [November 8, 2017](#)
 3. VTTI's Strategies for Attracting Large Grants and Diversifying its Funding Portfolio by Tom Dingus - [March 14, 2018](#)

4. Research Backlog Issues - Special Panel - [April 11, 2018](#)
5. State of Research at VT and OVPRI updates by Theresa Mayer - see minutes from [November 8, 2017](#), [December 13, 2017](#), and [February 14, 2018](#)

V. Unfinished Business

A. Report of Ongoing Activities

1. Committee on Research Competitiveness – S. Duma: The Committee on research competitiveness met earlier this week. This year Barb Lockee is a Fellow in the Office of Faculty Affairs so stepping off committee. Also, Kurt Zimmerman is on sabbatical this year. Have asked Barry Miller to help me and Ben Corl assemble the report. We will continue our data gathering and interviews over the next six weeks and then begin to compile the report.
2. University Library Committee – V. Pannabecker - No report
3. Faculty Senate – B. Vogelaar: September: Discussion of PIBB with cabinet and provost. Resolution to modify rules of faculty senate for term limits. Todd Schenk led discussion regarding strengthening faculty senate connections. Attended President's state of the university. October: Theresa Mayer talked about innovations to OVPRI. Lisa Lee discussed scholarly integrity and compliance. Discussion: This was a good starting conversation. Faculty senate would like to discuss further regarding human research protection and IRB. OVPRI is working on interacting and communicating more with faculty senate.
4. Update to Policy 13005 – A. Michaels: Data gathering - 5 schools with similar policies. Not all peer institutions, but similar to Virginia Tech in that the structure of their overall policy for institutes and centers is similar. Working with Dee Harris - have an outline of a new policy draft. Call for more committee members. Would like to pull in a couple other center directors to get their input for rewrite. Discussion: This will likely align with strategic planning and innovative approaches. Destination Areas are not currently guided by a policy; may work to include them in this or other policy.
5. Open Access Policy update – K. McGuire or V. Pannabecker. No report (will report in Nov)

B. Research Backlogs - Software licensing review - interest in following up on special panel held by COR last April? - V. Pannabecker

1. Discussion: Yes, there is interest. Many are experiencing issues due to the backlog in reviewing licenses, and to new level of compliance enforcement. Office of Sponsored Programs may be taking a role on this to help support sponsored program software, research software. OVPRI suggests getting a stakeholder group together to look at a more efficient method for review. OSP, Conflict of interest office handles all conflict of

interest and one broader thing to think about w/in university: are there efficiencies that this may help related to research software review?

VI. New Business

A. [10 min] Investigation of topics of interest - V. Pannabecker

1. Invitation to Lisa Lee to address Research Ethics - her approach and topics of interest / questions from COR
 - a) IRB process now and going forward
 - b) Other interests to forward to Lisa? Please email Ginny and Alan.
 2. Committee to investigate:
 - a) Communicating with faculty / researchers at VT about Facilities and Administration costs, their purpose and implementation at VT
 - b) Department Facilities and Administration costs related to cross dept / college funding
 - c) To what extent do these topics overlap with Committee on Research Competitiveness if at all?
 - d) This is of interest; will send a call for committee members. No overlap with Committee on Research Competitiveness.
 3. P&T Handbook revisions related to research
 - a) See draft revision from Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA Mainly section 3.4.4
 - b) Is this something we'd like someone from CFA to come and speak to us about?
 - c) Discussion: Yes, we'd like someone to come from CFA to talk about this. Further comments: Regarding participation in fund reviews and other types of research-related service and research products - not all are given weight at college level. Not sure to what extent the guidelines get involved in these kinds of choices. Can this be discussed or noted? Maybe add examples to the guidelines? Regarding requirement to write up department P&T guidelines, certain departments or colleges are further along than others; do any have a good draft / finished version to share with others?
- B. Strategic Affairs - Presentation on strategic planning draft priorities and time for feedback from COR:
1. Menah Pratt Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity presented on the current status of the Strategic Planning Process and led a discussion. Background information on Strategic Planning, including a presentation showing the leadership and committee group membership is here:
<http://www.beyondboundaries.vt.edu/strategicplanning.html>, with current group membership on the Strategic Planning website:
<https://strategicaffairs.vt.edu/StrategicPlanning/StrategicPlanningCommittees.html>. **See information presented in handouts at COR** about

“Strategic Planning Key Themes Augst 2018” and “Emerging Themes” under “The Process” on the strategic planning website:

<https://strategicaffairs.vt.edu/StrategicPlanning/StrategicPlanningProcessPage.html>. Scans of handouts are also in the COR October Meeting

Folder. To contribute feedback or request a presentation and discussion for your group or area, see this page:

<https://strategicaffairs.vt.edu/TakePart.html>. Goal - end of spring semester have a larger strategic plan framework. Discussion provided some feedback on needs for research at VT to be successful:

- a) Faculty struggle with additional administrative burdens - efficiencies in this area would be helpful, including: Support for faculty to address / comply with funding agency compliance changes and regulatory burdens; Consider the impact on faculty participation time for events such as Open house, which has been tripled this fall for undergraduates.
- b) Make what researchers have been doing well more visible
- c) Work life balance - Growth of faculty doesn't proportionally match growth of students. For new faculty: things that have been done do help a lot, such as for childcare, but more work is needed here
- d) Question about Faculty participation in strategic planning - how has this worked? Strategic Affairs went to NCR and saw many faculty. Partnered with each college to get feedback from groups and open forums. Every college is represented on the committee - some depts have gotten groups together to provide feedback. Hosted a Diversity Summit with 200-300 people - describe the Ut Prosim difference, what makes VT unique. Looking to identify 5-7 big projects (could be existing) that will impact VT; where should we put additional investment? Met w/dept heads to get more feedback on this. Focus of strategic plan is distinctive areas of VT.
- e) Suggestions included: The group of associate deans for research in each college may be a group that would be good to talk to as well as the individuals. If VT is going to make a big jump in research, entire infrastructure needs to be upgraded - faculty, facilities, equipment, proposal support, IT. Strategic Planning sees infrastructure as a key need; looking at ways to describe this need with the expected outcomes of building up infrastructure to make this a strategic goal. Reinforcement of need of proportional faculty increase to match student increase otherwise research will suffer in favor of teaching commitments; a very small initial step would be to increase TAs and GAs (although this still requires faculty effort to hire and train). Also need increase in staff as well, especially compensation.

- f) Strategic Affairs encouraged everyone to reach out to set up meetings in their areas, or with comments.
- C. OVPRI Update on Research Component of Strategic Planning - L. Miner provided an update:
- 1. Please take a look at the bullets that are within the themes that are shown in the Strategic Planning Themes and Emerging Themes documents - how can we best prioritize these? Please share your thoughts with OVPRI. Next Friday OVPRI is doing a Community Connection for input and feedback related to the strategic plan framework and research. OVPRI will come back to COR to discuss strategic planning again, following review of feedback from the Community Connection event. Will have a research focused, in-depth addition to the strategic plan. Looking to include / infuse aspirational ideas / values - improving people's' lives, etc. into these themes and their components.

VII. Adjournment

*Please take note of the following upcoming meetings which will all take place in Burruss 130 from 3:30pm-5:00pm unless otherwise noted:

14 November 2018

12 December 2018

9 January 2019

13 February 2019

13 March 2019

10 April 2019

8 May 2019