COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
April 11, 2007
325 Burruss Hall
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.


Invited Guests: D. McGarry and T. Pickering

Others: P. Pettry

1. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as written.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2007: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

3. Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index (Fenwick): Dr. Fenwick reported on the national NRC report surveying research productivity. He described the survey being used and the changes which have been made to include disciplines not previously addressed. He also mentioned a similar effort at SUNY called Academic Analytics and their procedures in comparison with the NRC effort. Dr. Fenwick stated that the hope is that the results of these surveys will be used as a barometer to identify those areas in which we do well and those areas where we need improvement. He informed the COR the NRC process should be finalized by late summer to early fall. A lengthy discussion followed on the university’s pursuit of AAU status.

4. Updates:
   a. Research Misconduct Policy and Procedures (Roberto and Walters): Dr. Walters reported that Dr. Roberto had successfully presented the document to Faculty Senate the previous evening. The policy had been approved by Faculty Senate, the Commission on Faculty Affairs, and University Legal Counsel. Dr. Walters announced that the first reading at University Council would be the following Monday and the second reading was scheduled in May. He thanked all the subcommittee members, and praised Bernice Hausman, and Carol Roberson for their diligent work.

   b. Search – Assistant Vice President for Sponsored Programs Administration (Walters): Dr. Walters reported the search committee recently met and narrowed the list to four candidates. He stated the candidates’ resumes will be posted on the Office of the Vice President for Research website and that his hopes are to have a hiring
decision made by commencement. Dr. Walters asked everyone to attend the open forums for each candidate.

5. Other Business:
   a. Fringe Benefit Rates: Mr. McGarry provided handouts on historical data for fringe benefit rates from 2000 to 2007 as well as the proposed rate for 2008. He then provided background information on the procedures in determining the rates. Mr. McGarry mentioned how high medical rates have affected the fringe benefits rate. He also explained the difference in our rate compared with the University of Virginia. He also explained how faculty salaries and retirement affect the rates. A short discussion followed.

6. Center Reviews (Pickering): Dr. Pickering stated the review committees have completed their work and are in the final draft stages of the reports and that these should be completed by the end of the month. He said both centers will be recommended for renewal with recommendations for their directors to continue. The reports will be presented to the Commission early next academic year.

7. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.