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

Members Present: L. Coble, D. Cook, C. Dawkins, D. Dean, R. Grange, R. Hall, T. Herdman, W. Huckle, D. Jones, R. Kapania, K. Miller, K. Roberto, R. Veilleux, P. Young,


Invited Guests: T. Pickering, E. Hitchingham

Others: D. Nester

1. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted.

2. **Approval of the minutes for CoR meeting November 14, 2007:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

3. **Report by Dean Eileen Hitchingham on the current status of the library; discussion to follow:**

   R. Grange introduced Dean E. Hitchingham. E. Hitchingham thanked the committee for the invitation to report on the status of the Library. E. Hitchingham provided handouts of the Library’s annual report. She presented the current operations of the library, their present and future needs, and the members of the commission discussed these points. R. Grange asked what the major limitations were and how might the commission help. E. Hitchingham indicated there had been a steady increase in funds since Dr. McNamme became the Provost, but to provide current services and institute new ones, would require additional funds to move the VT library from its current 8th percentile status among its peers, to the 30th percentile. She asked that the members talk to their Deans and emphasize the importance of more support for the library. She also mentioned that with the proposed medical school starting up, that the library likely will need additional resources, and this is yet another challenge to the already strained library budget.

   Other key points included:

   a. An increase of $500K per year was still not enough to move the library services forward because of the difference in the US dollar/Euro exchange.
   b. It would be helpful for Department Heads and Deans to include money in start up packages to account for the library research needs of new faculty hires.
   c. A Faculty survey on Library use and satisfaction would be coming soon.

   R. Grange said the committee will look at the issues raised by Dean Hitchingham and see how best to help. R. Grange thanked Dean Hitchingham for her report.

4. **Update on status of the Animal Cost Center – Rodd Hall:** R. Hall reported that the cost center process is still being developed. One question to answer is to what
degree should the institution subsidize to keep the per diem rates reasonable. One proposal is to centralize all resources and then provide services across the campus. There is a need to demonstrate to the deans, how prices will ramp up and what strategies are available to subsidize. There was some discussion. R. Hall reported that the first plan, the “Ferrari” plan, was to make sure services were up to par. Since that plan was first considered, the administrative structure for the cost center was reduced. A key need was a good business manager to centralize the system so it is competitive with our peers.

5. Brief update on proposed Center Charters/reviews: The centers charters reviews listed:

   a. IBPHS – Institute for Biomedical and Public Health Sciences; Charter (TBD)
   b. ISCE - Institute for Society, Culture and Environment; Charter (Feb, 2008)
   c. MII - Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute; Review (Fall, 2009)
   d. VCCER – Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research; Review (Fall 2008)
   e. Fralin Biotechnology Center; Review (TBD)
   f. CGIT – Center for Geospatial Information Technology; Review (Fall, 2008)
   g. VTTI – Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Review (TBD)

K. Roberto asked when the Center for Gerontology was up for review since it was not listed. T. Pickering said that it should be up for review in a couple of years.

6. Discussion and recommendations for amendment to Policy 3020; re: to whom do Directors of University Centers report: There was some discussion on this. R. Grange suggested the policy should be followed. D. Dean suggested that M. McNamee address the group again on this. R. Hall reported that insight from M. McNamee via R. Walters that the institutes be held to a higher standard than in policy 3020. The higher standards are approved through the stakeholders. R. Hall asked the committee to look at Policy 3020 and see what the inconsistencies are and write what should be changed. President is to talk with the institutes and tell them how they work and the requirements. R. Hall said the committee should move forward to fix Policy 3020 to be consistent with Policy 13005. R. Grange asked the committee to look the policies over and make suggestions. This will carry over to the next meeting.

7. Other Business: There was no other business.

8. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.