

Committee Minutes

Committee on Research
Duck Pond Room
The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center
4:15-5:30 p.m.

November 6, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Mehmood Kazmi
Mr. Stephen Sturgis
Mr. Jeff Veatch
Mr. Horacio Valerias

Guests:

Dr. Timothy Sands, Dr. Thanassis Rikakis, Mr. Dwight Shelton Jr., Mr. James L. Chapman, Ms. Greta J. Harris, Mr. Charles T. Hill, Ms. Deborah Petrine, Mr. Michael J. Quillen, Rev. Wayne H. Robinson, Dr. J. Thomas Ryan, Mr. Mehul Sanghani, Mr. Dennis H. Treacy, Dr. Monty Abbas, Dr. Daniel Crawford, Mr. Martin Daniel, Dr. Karen DePauw, Mr. Gannon Davis, Mr. Viet Bien Doung, Dr. Srinath Ekkad, Dr. Lance Franklin, Dr. Michael Friedlander, Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Dr. Michael Hochella, Mr. Tim Hodge, Ms. Elizabeth Hooper, Dr. Ed Jones, Dr. Mike Lambur, Dr. Steven McKnight, Dr. Scott Midkiff, Ms. Kim O'Rourke, Mr. Mark Owczarski, Dr. Patty Perrillo, Mr. Charles Phlegar, Dr. Ellen Plummer, Mr. J. Scot Ransbottom, Ms. Tracy Vosburgh, Dr. Sherwood Wilson and Ms. Beth Tranter.

1. **Opening Remarks and Approval of August 28, 2016 Minutes.** Mr. Kazmi called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **Remarks from the President.** Dr. Sands welcomed those in attendance, noting that the discussion on research expenditures will include a more detailed presentation of research scorecard metrics than was included in the information session. He also noted that future meetings will expand on these metrics to include a focus on scholarship and technology transfer outcomes.
3. **Resolution for Exclusion of Certain Officers/Directors:** Mr. Kazmi provided an overview of the Resolution for Exclusion of Certain/Officers/Directors. The resolution was unanimously approved by the committee.
4. **Report on Research and Innovation Metrics:** Dr. Mayer presented an overview of Virginia Tech's National Science Foundation-reported research expenditures, a

bellwether measure of the research productivity of universities. Dr. Mayer also highlighted areas of increased future federal investment, including applied energy, transportation, agriculture, defense and health, all areas in which Virginia Tech has particular strengths. Dr. Mayer identified upward potential for research productivity in Department of Defense and applied energy research, as well as increasing competitiveness in biomedical and life sciences. While research expenditures have increased slightly since 2010, extramural research funding has remained somewhat flat. With proper strategic investments in faculty resources and proposal development infrastructure, the university will be able to capitalize on these opportunities, enabling continued growth in research in the future. The Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation will also enhance infrastructure for strategic research program support, industry partnerships, and licensing and ventures to foster research growth. Finally, Dr. Mayer presented plans for the development of a business engagement strategy, a joint initiative between the Office of Research and the Office of Advancement, designed to develop deep relationships with selected corporate partners.

5. **Overview of NSF-Funded National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure Network Site – NanoEarth:** Dr. Michael Hochella delivered a presentation on NanoEarth, a National Center for Earth and Environmental Nanotechnology Infrastructure. This network includes sixteen national sites representing an \$81 million investment. Facilities include the Virginia Tech Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology and the Nanoscale Characterization and Fabrication Laboratory. To date, the Center is a resource for more than 20 institutions, domestic and international, including community colleges and four-year liberal arts institutions.
6. **Overview of NSF-Funded Molecular Software Sciences Institute** Dr. Daniel Crawford, professor in the College of Science's Department of Chemistry, heads the Molecular Sciences Software Institute, an initiative being funded by the National Science Foundation and in part inspired by the White House's year-old National Strategic Computing Initiative. The institute, housed at Virginia Tech's Corporate Research Center, is a \$19.4 million initiative to build a national team of software scientists to design and build new, powerful software tools that can help researchers across a diverse array of disciplines to tackle wide-ranging, complex, data-heavy issues, such as cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer's disease, as well as create new energy storage systems that can help stem climate change.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.