

University Council Minutes
March 29, 2010
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Jack Finney for Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Karen Eley Sanders, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, Eileen Hitchingham, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Sue Ott Rowlands, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Maggie Sloane, Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Robert Walters, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Terry Clements, William Huckle, Marilyn King, Maxine Lyons, Michelle McLeese, Patrick Miller, Guy Sims, Deborah Smith, Sam Easterling, Jim Kuypers, Susanna Rinehart, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Bob Sturges, Judy Alford, Jean Brickey, Travis Hundley, Lori Anne Kirk, Stacey Poertner, Wyatt Sasser, Dave Shuster, Annette Bailey, Keisha Riley, Laura Freeman, Lindsay Moss, Amy Reed, Alyson Boyce, Brad English for Shane McCarty, Steven Murphy Rebecca French, Gary Long, Tom Tucker

Absent John Dooley, Tom Tillar, Sherwood Wilson, Carla Finkelstein, Leslie O'Brien (with notice), Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Dave Dugas, Gene Seago, Dean Stauffer, David Vaughan, Kim Beisecker, Craig Keys, Mike Parrish (with notice), Chris Ramos, Wayne Scales, Jeff Chuang, Nicki Field, Ally Hammond, , Kristina Hartman

Guests: Darrell Bosch, Mike Coleman, Pat Hyer, Hal Irvin, April Myers, Kurt Stephenson

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement

Dr. Steger announced that Virginia Tech employees will not be required to take a furlough day in the current fiscal year. Institutions of higher education were giving the ability to use alternate means to fund the mandatory furlough day.

3. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 1, 2010

Dr. Steger noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

4. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2009-10B

Resolution for the Establishment of a Masters of Arts Degree in Material Culture and Public Humanities

Patrick Miller presented the resolution for first reading. The resolution will be presented for second reading and voting at the April 5 University Council meeting.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2009-10C

& Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2009-10A

Resolution Regarding the Name Change of the College of Natural Resources to the College of Natural Resources and Environment

Patrick Miller presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Miller introduced Dean Paul Winistorfer to explain the reason for the resolution. Dean Winistorfer indicated that changing the name of the College of Natural Resources to the College of Natural Resources and Environment will help the college become more central to all of its interests in natural resources and the environment. It is not an attempt to take students, curricula, programs, or departments that are already established.

A question was raised as to how the College of Natural Resources is to going to encapsulate more of the environment because other colleges on campus have a large stake in the environment. Dean Winistorfer informed the Council that the college wants to be a catalyst to help move ideas about the environment forward and have not given any thoughts of including other academic programs outside of the College of Natural Resources under the umbrella of the college.

Dr. Easterling informed the Council that, as the Department Head in Civil and Environmental Engineering, he has received several e-mails from colleagues who are opposed to the name change.

5. Old Business

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs

Resolution 2009-10A

Resolution on Winter Break Closing

Maxine Lyons presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded.

Concerns were raised about the timing of the resolution because of the economy. There are also nine-month faculty who are working on research during this time. There were also concerns raised about how graduate students who are working on research or utilizing labs will be affected. It was mentioned that the resolution is written so that those departments that need to be open can be (power plant, development, police department, etc.). Dr. Steger informed the Council that the every department that closes needs to be accessible at all times (by phone or another means), even when the university is closed.

Dr. Hal Irvin, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, informed the Council that 70-80% of employees did not work during the winter break last year. It was stated that there is currently a safety issue when there are people working in a building that is 70-80% empty. There is also a potential energy savings if the university closes during this time.

The motion passed.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2009-10B

Resolution to Approve spin off Bachelor of Science Degree in "Agribusiness" and Renaming of the Agricultural and Applied Economics degree to Applied Economics Management degree in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Susan Sumner presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and the resolution passed.

Commission on University Support

Resolution 2009-10A
Commission on University Support Representation to
the Transportation and Parking Committee

Daniel Wubah presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was approved.

6. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>). Note that the purpose of voting on Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council By-laws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
February 10, 2010
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
February 1, 2010
February 15, 2010
- Commission Faculty Affairs
January 29, 2010
February 12, 2010
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
February 17, 2010
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
February 11, 2010
- Commission on Research
February 10, 2010
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
January 26, 2010
- Commission on Student Affairs
February 18, 2010
March 4, 2010
- Commission on University Support
February 18, 2010

7. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
February 4, 2010

8. Report

Ms. Kim O'Rourke gave a report on the Virginia Tech Employee Spouse and Dependent Scholarship Program. This will be the eleventh year for this program and a total of 100 scholarships have been awarded thus far. The demand for scholarship has grown over the years. In the beginning, the scholarships started out as \$500 each, and at one time were increased to \$700 but were then dropped back to \$500 last year. This year, because of the demand and the economy, the scholarships will be \$350 each. There will be a faculty/staff campaign and the mailing will go out within the next few weeks. Ms. O'Rourke asked that faculty and staff consider making a contributions to the Virginia Tech Employee Spouse and Dependent Scholarship Program.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 p.m.