

University Council Minutes
March 1, 2010
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Glenda Scales for Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Karen Eley Sanders, 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, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Terry Clements, William Huckle, Marilyn King, Michelle McLeese, Patrick Miller, Leslie O'Brien, Guy Sims, Deborah Smith, Sam Easterling, Jim Kuypers, Susanna Rinehart, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Dave Dugas, Gene Seago, Bob Sturges, Jean Brickey, Travis Hundley, Lori Anne Kirk, Wyatt Sasser, Dave Shuster, Annette Bailey, Kim Beisecker, Mike Parrish, Keisha Riley, Laura Freeman, Lindsay Moss, Amy Reed, Rebecca French, Kristina Hartman, Gary Long, Tom Tucker

Absent Tom Tillar, Carla Finkielstein, Maxine Lyons (with notice), Heather Boyd (with notice), Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Dean Stauffer, David Vaughan, Judy Alford (with notice), Stacey Poertner (with notice), Craig Keys, Chris Ramos, Wayne Scales, Alyson Boyce, Jeff Chuang, Nicki Field, Ally Hammond, Shane McCarty, Steven Murphy

Guests: Pat Hyer, Kristen Houston, Adam Rubin, Hal Irvin, Heidi McCoy, Shelia Collins, Mike Coleman, Ellen Plummer, Darrell Bosch, April Myers.

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 of approval and posting of minutes of February 15, 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>).

3. New Business

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs

Resolution 2009-10A

Resolution on Winter Break Closing

Mr. Tom Tucker presented the resolution for first reading. Tucker introduced Hal Irvin and Mike Coleman to assist with answering questions. This topic was first brought to the University Council for discussion in the fall of 2008. One of the main concerns voiced at the fall 2008 meeting was that employees would be required to move holidays to the end of the year to use during the winter break closing. Another concern at that time was that new employees may not have ample leave to take off during the closing. Both of these concerns have been addressed in the resolution. New employees will receive four days of family personal leave on their date of hire, which can be used to cover the closing.

Dr. Steger asked if there have been any public discussions on this topic in order to hear all concerns. Tucker indicated the resolution has been approved by the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs, the Commission on Faculty Affairs, and the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs.

The resolution has the support of the Staff Senate and the Deans' Council, and has been presented to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate had some questions which are being addressed.

Dr. Steger stated that any departments that close must provide a means for students, parents, faculty, staff, or the public to contact them should they have a crisis or need assistance urgently.

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

Darrell Bosch presented the resolution for first reading. Removing Agriculture from the title of the applied economics degree better denotes what the program is and allows students to market themselves more accurately.

Commission on University Support

Resolution 2009-10A

Commission on University Support Representation to the Transportation and Parking Committee

Leslie O'Brien presented the resolution for first reading. Currently the Commission on University Support selects a faculty member to serve on the Transportation and Parking Committee. The Commission would like to have the ability to select any faculty or staff member of the Commission to serve in this capacity so as to not limit what members can serve on the Transportation and Parking committee.

4. Old Business

Commission on Student Affairs

Resolution 2009-10E

Resolution Requesting Jewish Student Union Membership on The Commission on Student Affairs

Ms. Michelle McLeese presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was approved.

5. Presentation

Ms. Laura Freeman, President of the Graduate Student Assembly gave a presentation on the following four topics:

- Health Insurance
- Summer Status
- Family Issues/Childcare
- Graduate Fees

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 Graduate Studies and Policies
February 3, 2010
- Commission on Research
December 9, 2009
- Commission Student Affairs
February 4, 2010
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
February 8, 2010

7. Report

Dwight Shelton informed the Council that the money committees from the House and Senate have met and issued their reports. Representatives from the House and Senate are in the process of meeting in order to compromise on their respective bills. There is a \$21 million reduction in the instructional program to occur by 2011-2012, but the House has added an additional \$4.5 million reduction in the second year. The Senate did not have any additional reductions. There have been additional reductions to the agency 229 beyond the \$4.5 million in the second year. The House proposed a net of an additional \$1.3 million in reductions and gave some restricted language about how to allocate the reductions. Neither the Senate nor the Governor proposed any additional reductions. No new capital projects were approved.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m.