University Council Minutes, September 18, 1995


Guests: B. Rowland, Graduate Student Assembly; S. Bates, President, Student Government Association; G. Brewer, Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid Office; J. Nottingham, Office of Admissions.

Dr. Paul Torgersen began University Council’s first meeting of the 1995-96 academic year by introducing Council members, including off-campus representative, Ms. Kay Burke, extension agent in Amelia, Virginia, who joins Council via teleconferencing equipment.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Council Minutes of May 1, 1995

Dr. Torgersen noted that the minutes from the May 1, 1995 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

3. First Reading, Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Resolution 95-96A, Five Year Bachelor/Master’s Degree.

Dr. Ezra Brown, chairperson of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, presented Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Resolution 95-96A, Five Year Bachelor/Master’s Degree, for first reading. Dr. Brown explained that this resolution was originated by the University Honors Program and the College of Arts and Sciences in collaboration with the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies and that it is designed to allow undergraduate students who meet specific requirements to achieve their Bachelor/Master’s Degree in five years. After explaining the purpose of this resolution, Dr. Brown invited members to send inquiries about this resolution to either himself or Dr. Jack Dudley, University Honors Program.

4. First Reading, Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Chairperson Election.

In the absence of the chairperson of the Commission on Student Affairs, Dr. Jim McKenna, Mr. Shiloh Bates, president of Student Government Association, presented Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Chairperson Election for first reading. Mr. Bates explained that this resolution is designed to make a University Constitution and Bylaws change that would expand the group of people eligible for chairperson of the Commission on Student Affairs to include non-administrative faculty and staff, and graduate and undergraduate student members.
5. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

* Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, April 25 and August 15, 1995.
* Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, March 8, April 12, May 10, and July 12, 1995.
* Commission on Faculty Affairs, April 21, July 28, and April 27, 1995.
* Commission on Graduate Studies, April 19 and May 3, 1995.
* Commission on Research, April 12, 1995.
* Commission on Student Affairs, April 20, 1995.
* Commission on University Support, May 2, 1995.

6. For Information


7. Announcements

Dr. Torgersen offered observations regarding events across the Commonwealth and he expressed his pleasure at being invited by Dr. Tom Sherman, president of Faculty Senate, to speak to the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, September 19, 1995.

Next, he gave a brief update on the formal capital campaign kickoff, Saturday, September 16, at Hotel Roanoke. He indicated that the kickoff event went very well, the goal of $250 million was announced, and that $150 million has already been received in pledges and gifts. Dr. Torgersen said the campaign will conclude in June, 1998 and one of the resulting long-term permanent effects of the campaign will be an increased “base of giving.”

Dr. Sherman questioned what the money raised in the campaign would be used for. Dr. Charles Steger, Vice President for Development, responded by proposing to provide the University Case Statement to each member of Univ. Council at the next meeting. The University Case Statement recognizes the needs of each college. Dr. Steger will also provide a newspaper supplement designed to maximize the impact of the campaign and Virginia Tech’s position. This supplement was placed in 900,000 newspapers across Virginia. Additionally, at the next meeting, Dr. Steger will present a 10-minute video designed to answer questions regarding the campaign and its goals.

Regarding the political scene in Virginia, Dr. Torgersen indicated that although it is very complicated, he feels optimistic about the initiatives being coordinated by the Business Higher Education Council. Dr. Torgersen feels that newspaper clippings such as “Education emerging as a top issue” are an excellent indicator of how important it is to focus on higher education in Virginia. He pointed out that the Business Higher Education Council, which includes the top 40 business leaders in Virginia, is taking a stand on support of higher education, and asking both incumbents and individuals seeking incumbency to take a pledge in support of higher education. Many are taking the pledge.

Dr. Torgersen concluded the meeting by informing members of Council that he continues to spend time visiting legislators and working towards helping the larger proportion of the electorate understand that higher education has undergone major restructuring, has not received funding, slipped to 42nd or 43rd place in per-student support, and that if we continue along this path, Virginia’s higher education will begin to look like that of states we would not want to be compared with.

Dr. Torgersen also thanked the Council for their extraordinary attendance.
The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes
October 2, 1995


Guests: R. Stith, University Relations; J. Perrelli, Alumni and former SGA Vice President.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Council Minutes of September 18, 1995

Dr. Peggy S. Meszaros, presiding over the Council meeting in President Torgersen's absence, noted that the minutes from the September 18, 1995 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

3. Second Reading, Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Resolution 95-96A, Five Year Bachelor/Master’s Degree.

Dr. Ezra Brown, chairperson of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, presented Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Resolution 95-96A, Five Year Bachelor/Master’s Degree, for second reading.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of the University Honors Program in the application process. Dr. Jack Dudley explained that University Honors had volunteered its participation in order to unburden the departments from processing large numbers of requests. Council members agreed to vote on the resolution as it is currently written with the understanding that a review would be undertaken in two years to determine the most efficient administrative route. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

4. Second Reading, Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Chairperson Election.

Dr. Jim McKenna, chairperson of the Commission on Student Affairs, presented Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Chairperson Election for second reading.

A discussion ensued regarding the resolution. One Council member pointed out that a compelling reason for making this change had not been presented. He and several other members are concerned about the continuity students could provide given that they rarely serve on the Commission for longer than two years and that serving as chairperson might put an additional load on their present activities. A concern was also expressed regarding the lack of clerical support a student chairperson might receive compared to the support that a faculty member receives. Dr. Landrum Cross, Vice President of Student Affairs, reassured Council members that the current secretarial support would...
continue as it now exists (enforcing the Governance Task Force's directive that support resources would be provided regardless of who chairs commissions). Dr. Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture, has served on the commission for two years and cited favorable impressions of the student's responsibility and ability to function. Mr. Shiloh Bates, president of SGA, pointed out that the majority of members on this commission are students; that they do have the time to chair it; and that they strongly feel they should be allowed the possibility of chairing their own commission. It was noted as a precedent that the Commission on Staff Affairs is chaired by a staff person.

Since this resolution will result in a constitutional change, a two-thirds majority vote of all Council members will be called for at the October 16 University Council meeting.

5. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:
   * Commission on Faculty Affairs, September 1, 1995.
   * Commission on Research, April 26, 1995.
   * Commission on Student Affairs, September 7, 1995.

Mr. Bhaba Misra, Staff Senate representative from the College of Veterinary Medicine, pointed that that the Constitution and Bylaws state that a commission chair may be selected from non-administrative faculty and staff members rather than selected only from Faculty Senate representatives as the minutes presently read. The correction will be made.

   * Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, April 24 and September 11, 1995.

6. Announcements

None

7. Question/Answer Forum

Dr. Charles Steger, Vice President of Development and University Relations presented a campaign kickoff video along with the CASE statement prepared by the University. The statement is basically a summary of how the $250 million will be used. Dr. Steger also distributed a copy of the supplement, highlighting Virginia Tech activities, which was distributed to 900,000 Virginia newspapers. Mr. Randy Stith, producer of the campaign video, explained that the film was designed for a very specific audience, and will be used at regional development campaign meetings around the country. At the conclusion of the video presentation, Dr. Steger complimented Mr. Stith on the video which was produced with Virginia Tech Foundation resources and Virginia Tech staff.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes, November 6, 1995


Guests: B. Rowland, Graduate Student Assembly.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Council Minutes of October 2, 1995

Dr. Peggy S. Meszaros, presiding over the Council meeting in President Torgersen's absence, noted that the minutes from the October 2, 1995 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

3. Third Reading, Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Chairperson Election.

Dr. Jim McKenna, chairperson of the Commission on Student Affairs, presented Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Chairperson Election for third reading and vote. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

4. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, September 19, 1995.
Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, September 13, 1995.
Commission on Faculty Affairs, September 15 and October 6, 1995.
Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, September 6 and October 4, 1995.
Commission on Research, September 13 and October 11, 1995.
Commission on Student Affairs, September 21 and October 5, 1995.
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, September 25 and October 9, 1995.
Commission on University Support, September 5, 1995.

5. For Information:

University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning, August 16, September 12, and October 3, 1995.

6. Announcements

None

7. Question/Answer Forum

The provost invited questions and discussion, and in the absence of any comments, called for a motion to adjourn.
8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes, December 4, 1995


Guests: P. Hyer, Provost's Office.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Council Minutes of November 6, 1995

Dr. Paul Torgersen noted that the minutes from the November 6, 1995 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the Gopher for public access.

3. First Reading, Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Reduction in Force for Program Restructuring or Discontinuance.

Dr. Paul Metz presented the first reading of the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Reduction in Force for Program Restructuring or Discontinuance. He explained that the newly-revised policy is designed to replace the current section 2.11.3, Reduction in Force Associated with Discontinuance or Reorganization of Programs policy. He noted that the current RIF policy sections dealing with Dismissal for Cause (2.11.1), and Reduction in Force Due to Financial Exigency (2.11.2) would not be altered in any way.

Dr. Metz pointed out that the new policy would not be needed in the majority of University restructuring efforts since, with appropriate planning, these should be possible without reductions in faculty positions other than from attrition. He explained that last year the Board of Visitors identified deficiencies in the current policy. The Board was specifically concerned that the five-year notice to affected faculty seemed unduly generous, and they objected to an inflexible, strictly seniority-based, layoff policy. Therefore, the Commission on Faculty Affairs began working on a revision that was completed in the late spring. Lacking time for a full review by the campus community before the end of the academic year, the topic was carried to this year's CFA. In addition, the resolution has been extensively reviewed by the university community, printed in Spectrum at least twice, posted on the Gopher, and has been discussed at length by CFA, whose Faculty Senate members, especially Don Mullins, have kept the Faculty Senate informed and involved.

Some of the major differences between the new and old policy are:
- earlier and more significant faculty involvement
- transitional benefits
- reduces notification period from five to three years
- retains the principal of tenure as of cardinal importance but finds a place for merit and for programs whose diversity would otherwise be threatened
- defines a program
- much more detailed and precise than the policy now in place
- affirmative action.
One Council member asked if there was a clear description of "extraordinary circumstances." He felt that without a clear description, the policy could be interpreted many different ways. Dr. Metz stated that the description falls between financial exigency, which is extremely unlikely, and routine restructuring.

Dr. Torgersen complimented the Commission on Faculty Affairs for the excellent work and diligence they have displayed in preparing this resolution.

4. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, October 17, 1995.
Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, October 11, 1995.
Commission on Faculty Affairs, October 20 and November 3, 1995.
Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, October 18 and November 1, 1995.
Commission on Public Service and Extension,
Commission on Research, October 25, 1995.
Commission on Student Affairs, October 19, 1995.
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, October 23, 1995.

5. For Information:

University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning, October 17 and October 31, 1995.

6. Announcements

Dr. Torgersen announced that Provost Peggy Meszaros would host a question and answer session on Tuesday, 4:00 p.m., Colonial Ballroom, Squires Student Center on the issue of sexual assault. The time and place of the meeting has been posted on e-mail and everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Dr. Torgersen also informed Council members of some important dates. Last August the Rector of the Board asked Dr. Torgersen to put together a University plan for 1996-2000. The purpose of this plan would be to develop a statement of the University's strategic direction and specific objectives for the next five-year period.

Dr. Torgersen pointed out that a small committee under the chairmanship of Dr. David Conn whose expertise is planning, has been working toward that objective. Dr. Torgersen outlined the time table, which is tight but not impossible, for meeting the Rector's goals. He explained that after attending a half-day workshop on October 18 conducted by Dr. George Keller, the committee began to gather in-put from the university community. By December 12 a preliminary draft will be presented for review by the Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning, as well as the deans and vice presidents. During the week of December 18, the draft will be posted on the electronic mail system, Gopher and Worldwide Web. Dr. Torgersen explained that due to the holidays, it will be difficult to get business done during December 15 and January 15. He stated that once the academic calendar reconvenes, there will be three successive Faculty and Staff Senate Forum meetings, January 17, 18, and 19, all on the same topic. At the same time, Dr. Torgersen will also meet with all the present and past Faculty Senate presidents to discuss this proposal. The final deadline is to present a draft to the Board of Visitors at the February 18 meeting, which they will then review and hopefully pass at the April meeting. Dr. Torgersen explained that in complying with the request for a University plan, he has put down some fairly definite thoughts as to what the University should look like in the year 2000 and how we should get there, but he welcomes advice and input and would like the final document to be the product of many minds besides his own.
7. Question/Answer Forum

Several members of University Council queried the President on the Governor's budget for next year. Dr. Torgersen pointed out that rumors are not reliable and we would will know two weeks from today. University Council members also wondered if the University has a mechanism in place for influencing the budget by the time the legislative session starts. Dr. Torgersen pointed out that the highlights of the budget, as it relates to us, will be shared almost immediately with the deans by the Provost Office and at that time their input will be sought and a plan decided upon.

Dr. Torgersen reiterated that he has been visiting a lot of legislators on behalf of the University, and plans a visit with Earl Dickinson, the new chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and a good friend of this institution.

Dr. Torgersen informed Council that everyone is enthusiastic about the bowl bid. He explained that the Conference receives $8 million from the Sugar Bowl alone in addition to money from the Gator Bowl. He said that Virginia Tech will collect about $3.5 million of the $8 million, in addition to our share of the larger pool, totaling approximately $4.3 million. Obviously there are already a lot of requests for that money. Intercollegiate athletics, in general, operates at a deficit and there are already many requests for the money. We have some very real expenses in implementing our Title IX programs and this money is going to be very helpful in putting in some playing fields, meeting some scholarship obligations, etc. We are fortunate that this Title IX requirement, which is something to which we are absolutely committed, and the revenue from this bowl, are happening at the same time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes
January 15, 1996


Guests: P. Hyer, ProvostÕs Office.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Council Minutes of December 4, 1995

Dr. Paul Torgersen noted that the minutes from the December 4, 1995 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

3. Second Reading, Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Reduction in Force for Program Restructuring or Discontinuance.

Dr. Paul Metz presented the second reading of the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A, Reduction in Force for Program Restructuring or Discontinuance. After a very brief discussion, the resolution was voted upon and passed.

4. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

Commission on Faculty Affairs, November 17, December 1, and December 14, 1995.
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, November 13 and November 27, 1995.

5. For Information:


6. Announcements/Questions and Answers

Dr. Torgersen informed Council that the General Assembly session has begun and he will be spending much of his time in Richmond representing Virginia Tech's interests. He explained that since all the committees have been split, with chairpersons assigned to one party or the other, the operation will be completely different.

In response to Council's inquiries about Governor Allen's proposed bonus, Dr. Torgersen and Mr. Ridenour made the following observations: 1) As its number one priority, the Business Higher Education Council is proposing a package which recommends faculty salaries being returned to the 60th percentile—a six percent salary increase for each of the next four years; 2) Since the Governor's proposed bonus has many problems associated with it, there is a good possibility that the Council's
proposed package will stand a better chance of becoming a reality; 3) they will be able to address this issue better after spending time in Richmond.

Dr. Torgersen announced three upcoming University Plan faculty/staff forums scheduled this week. The plan is a statement of what the University hopes to achieve from 1996-2001 and although progress has been made towards its finalization, constructive suggestions are welcome. Everyone is invited to attend the forums.

Dr. Torgersen commented that at the conclusion of the Sugar Bowl game, a poignant interaction took place between the Virginia Tech fans, the football team and the Marching Virginians when the football players ran to our fans and cheered them for their support.

Dr. Peggy Meszaros announced that Mr. Mark Embree, a mathematics and computer science major, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. This award is a wonderful acknowledgment of Mark’s excellence as well as the kind of mentoring and support he has received from faculty and staff at Virginia Tech, and from our Honors Program in particular.

Dr. Torgersen circulated pictures of the roof at Cassell Coliseum and explained that the University is under an edict to refrain from using the Coliseum if there is in excess of 12 inches of snow, or 30-40 mile per hour wind, or a combination of both. Plans are underway to repair the roof, and we hope to avoid a complication in the spring between the repair schedule and our commencement ceremonies.

Dr. Meszaros invited everyone to participate in celebrating the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today by attending some of the events taking place on campus.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes, March 4, 1996


Guests: S. Brooker-Gross, Provost's Office; S. Bambach, Undergraduate Admissions; E. Sturgis, Arts & Sciences & Committee on Academic Policies; E. Price, Independent Study/Institutional Research; A. McDaniel, Chair, Committee on Academic Support.

1. Adoption of Agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.


Dr. Paul Torgersen noted that the minutes from the January 15, 1996 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.


Dr. Ezra Brown presented the first reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1995-1996A, Policy on Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. Brown deferred the presentation/explanation of the new policy to Dr. Alan McDaniel who chairs the Committee on Academic Support, the originator of this resolution. Dr. McDaniel explained that last year this Committee submitted the new religious and ethnic holidays policy. Within that policy, groups had the opportunity to identify particular holidays they would like to have noted on the calendar. Subsequently, the Committee received a request pertaining to the birthday and anniversary of Martin King Luther, Jr. Dr. McDaniel explained that this new resolution is really an amendment to that original policy and is proposing commemorating the date, not as a religious or ethnic holiday, but in recognition of a particular individual who played a significant role in American history.


Dr. Ezra Brown presented the first reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1995-1996B, Academic Eligibility Policy. Dr. Brown explained that the current policy stipulates that a student must have a QCA of at least 1.5 after 36 hours; 1.75 after 70 hours; and 2.0 after 90 hours. Dr. Brown pointed out that because the current policy has the potential for allowing students to get into academic trouble, the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies and the Committee on Academic Policies has been debating this issue and seeking a solution for identifying/assisting students heading into academic difficulty.
Dr. Brown noted that the newly proposed policy is a pro-graduation policy; a policy of intervention. The new policy proposes a minimum QCA of 2.0 for all students throughout their academic careers, and is based on the premise that if a 2.0 will be required to successfully conclude a student's undergraduate career, the student should be aiming for this average throughout his or her academic career.


Dr. Ezra Brown presented the first reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Resolution 1995-1996C, Transition to New Academic Eligibility Policy. Dr. Brown explained that this resolution is merely a transitional tool for implementing the Revised Academic Eligibility Policy. It will allow the new policy to become effective for all undergraduate students enrolled in the University on or after May 15, 2000 and, at the same time, "grandfather" into the new system currently enrolled students who have not passed their 70th hour.

6. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, November 18, 1995 and January 16, 1996.
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, December 13, 1995.
- Commission on Faculty Affairs, January 5 and January 19, 1996.
- Commission on Student Affairs, November 2 and 16, 1995 and January 18, 1996.

7. For Information:


8. Announcements/Questions and Answers

- Dr. Torgersen shared an Admissions status report prepared by Mr. David Bousquet, Director, Office of Admissions, for Provost Meszaros' information. Dr. Torgersen explained that acceptance deposits are about the same as last year but that out-of-state deposits are up about 70 and in-state deposits are down about 70. Regarding applications, African American applications are up--1616 vs. 1405 this time last year; Cadet applications are up--1366 vs. 1007. Dr. Torgersen noted that Mr. Bousquet has hosted three luncheons for Honors-eligible out-of-state students with 18 students present, and Dr. Jack Dudley indicated that the parents present were "excited as all get out" and that "Julie Sina did her usual brilliant job." Dr. Dudley mentioned that students came from as far north as New Hampshire to attend these events. Dr. Torgersen commented that the Honors Program, directed by Jack Dudley, is a program Virginia Tech does very well and that it had played an important role for Mark Embree, our Rhodes Scholar.

- Dr. Torgersen noted that the date scheduled for Gloria Steinem to speak, April 3, is the first day of Passover and is not a good day for the event. We are planning to reschedule Ms. Steinem's visit.

- Dr. Torgersen informed Council members that the Board of Visitors heard an outline of the draft Plan 1996-2001 at the recent Board meeting. He explained that the Board members will have input between now and the middle of March, at which time a final draft will be prepared.
for the April Board meeting. Once the Board of Visitors accepts the University Plan for 1996-2001, the President, the Provost, and the Executive Vice President will begin putting in place a mechanism for implementing the 20+ strategies that call for action. Dr. Torgersen noted that this will be more than just a plan that sits on a shelf somewhere -- it will be a plan for action and implementation.

+ Regarding the budget situation in Richmond, Dr. Torgersen commented that he remains cautiously optimistic that we will receive reasonable funding over, and above, what we have received in earlier years. He explained that within both budgets, one submitted by the Senate and one by the House, there is a recommendation for a 6 percent faculty salary increase for Virginia Tech. Dr. Torgersen cautioned that there is no guarantee those numbers will hold. The numbers are based upon each institution's peer universities, and it appears as though Virginia Tech has been particularly disadvantaged amongst its 20 peer institutions. Dr. Torgersen pointed out that the budget has been facilitated, in part, by the Business Higher Education Council support, a group that has been very helpful in bringing the message across the State that higher education desperately needs financial assistance. Dr. Torgersen pointed out that there are still concerns regarding the source of funding for salaries; he believes the General Assembly needs to establish funding for succeeding years of salary increases, rather than deal with this year only. Where that money will come from remains to be seen.

+ In responding to questions from Council members, Dr. Torgersen noted that: 1) faculty salary increases will be fully funded; 2) the faculty salary increase monies will be provided to the university in one lump sum and then parcelled out according to promotions, etc.; 3) the Provost will discuss at some length with the deans and department heads how to allocate this money fairly.

+ Dr. Tom Sherman brought up an issue of importance to all state employees. He pointed out that even though the Governor's bonus for state employees is a dead issue, one of the strategies of the Governor's bonus was to separate the end of the pay period by a week or two from the time one actually gets paid. Dr. Ray Smoot confirmed that it is still an ongoing issue. Dr. Smoot explained that the intention of the Department of Accounts is that by 1997 all state employees will be on a two-week delayed paid schedule. Dr. Torgersen believes there will be objections expressed to this policy across all universities and state agencies, and promises to get back to Council on this issue.

+ Dr. Torgersen noted that Dean F. W. Stephenson and Provost Meszaros will accompany Dr. Jimmy Martin, winner of a 1996 SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award, and Mark Embree, our Rhodes Scholar, to Richmond, where they will be recognized by the State Council of Higher Education.

+ Dr. Torgersen announced that following a search committee recommendation, he was pleased to acknowledge publicly the appointment of Dr. Tom Tillar to Vice President for Alumni Relations.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes, March 18, 1996


Guests: S. Brooker-Gross, Provost's Office; S. Bambach, Undergraduate Admissions; E. Stout, Research Division; R. Giddings, OAEP; R. Kirkpatrick, CAP; P. Hyer, Provost's Office.

1. Adoption of Agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.


Dr. Paul Torgersen noted that the minutes from the March 4, 1996 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.


Dr. Rebecca Lovingood presented the first reading of the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1995-96A, New Graduate Degree Program Process. Dr. Lovingood explained that this resolution has been developed as an early warning system, and speaks to issues regarding necessary resources for programs. It is designed to inform the Graduate Dean and the Provost of forthcoming proposals early in the process, and it clearly defines the steps required to move a new degree proposal through the system in a clear and concise manner.

4. First Reading, Commission on Research Resolution 95-96A, Academic Year/Calendar Year Appointment.

Dr. Hsiung Tze presented the first reading of the Commission on Research Resolution 95-96A, Academic Year/Calendar Year Appointment. Dr. Tze explained that this resolution is intended to document procedures for converting an academic-year appointment, under certain conditions, to a calendar-year appointment for faculty members who are typically fully supported on sponsored funding during the summer. Such a procedure will allow the typical summer earnings defined as wages by the Commonwealth to earn the same fringe benefits as calendar year compensation.


Dr. Paul Metz presented the first reading of the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96B, Post-Tenure Review Process. Dr. Metz explained that this is a controversial, new, and very important policy. He explained that Virginia Tech's proposed post-tenure review process is in line with the national concept for increased accountability of all public servants, all professionals, and all faculty who happen to be a combination of the two. Dr. Metz pointed out that the 1982 National Commission on Higher Education was already looking at the issue of tenure review and calling for post tenure review, indicating in its summary report that this
would be a major issue of the 90s’. He noted that nothing will undermine the tenure system more completely than its being regarded as a system to protect faculty members from evaluations. In his July 31 letter of guidance Dr. Gordon Davies of SCHEV specified that we must have procedures ensuring that faculty evaluation include regular and rigorous post-tenure review and describe the consequences of faculty's failure to perform according to prescribed expectations. Our most recent information, Metz noted, indicates that every state-supported college and university in Virginia will comply with SCHEV's directive and that many of them are reviewing Virginia Tech's policy. Referring to his handout, 1995 Restructuring Reports, Dr. Metz pointed out the stark evidence that SCHEV is watching and does care that there be procedures for post-tenure review that includes the possible result of dismissal, and that each of our peers is, or will be, in compliance.

Dr. Metz also pointed out that the Board of Visitors indicated a strong ongoing interest in the resolution of the post tenure review process. He stressed that the Faculty Senate has made post-tenure review one of this year's three major topics, inviting each and every senator to join in a working group devoted to the topic as well as the invitation to subscribe to an informational LISTSERV. In addition, post-tenure review has dominated Commission on Faculty Affair's deliberations from the start of the year. Comments have been received from various faculty which CFA has incorporated into the final draft. Dr. Metz observed that although many people have been involved in the evolution of this policy, there has still been controversy. However, Dr. Metz pointed out that the document is NOT the product of reluctant compromise among clashing points of view--all the recommendations coming from CFA are unanimous or very near unanimous.


Dr. Ezra Brown presented the second reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1995-1996A, Policy on Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The resolution was voted upon and passed.


Due to Dr. Brown's illness, Provost Peggy Meszaros presented the second reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Resolution 1995-1996B, Academic Eligibility Policy and Resolution 1995-96C, Transition to New Academic Eligibility Policy. Dr. Meszaros asked that both of these resolutions be deferred in order to complete an administrative analysis. Dr. Meszaros explained that although this is a good policy, the university needs to examine the cascading consequences--what does the policy imply in terms of impact on students, on support mechanisms, and on various budgets and financial planning.

9. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, January 17, 1995.
- Commission on Public Service and Extension, January 22 and February 12, 1996.
- Commission on Research, February 14, 1996.
- Commission on Student Affairs, February 1 and February 15, 1996.

10. Announcements/Questions and Answers

- Mr. Minnis Ridenour, Executive Vice President, presented handouts outlining the proposed budget and carefully reviewed this information with members.
Dr. Torgersen added two general observations: 1) Thanks, in part, to the Business Higher Education Council initiative that recommended incremental funding in the neighborhood of $400 million, higher education did very well in comparison to other state agencies; 2) Dr. Torgersen is very pleased with the budget but feels there will be quite a challenge to secure monies next year from a very slowly expanding economy.

Mr. Ridenour acknowledged the strong commitment made by legislators to provide additional funding for higher education. He continued on to explain how the shift in pay dates will secure the monies needed to fund faculty and staff salary increases and recognized that the procedure is causing a lot of concern to state employees. Suggestions were presented as to how Virginia Tech administration might help educate faculty and staff towards managing automatic deposits, automatic payments for mortgages, etc., and generally managing personal income differently to accommodate the new pay dates.

A suggestion was made that faculty evaluations be rescheduled to reflect actual pay periods.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/bjl
University Council Minutes, April 1, 1996


Guests: E. Stout, Research Division.

Adoption of Agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approval of Council Minutes of March 18, 1996.

Dr. Peggy Meszaros noted that the minutes from the March 18, 1996 University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

First Reading, Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution, 1994-95G, To Allow Transfer Credit for Students Participating in NSEP and ISEP.

Dr. Bud Brown presented the first reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1994-95G, To Allow Transfer Credit for Students Participating in NSEP and ISEP. Dr. Brown explained that this is actually business carried over from last year. It is designed to allow transfer credit courses taken by Virginia Tech students at host universities and institutions participating in these programs. These courses would receive credit as if they were taken at Virginia Tech. This would allow these students to receive financial aid. Otherwise they would be dropped below full-time status and would not be eligible to receive financial aid.

First Reading, Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96B, Commission Membership.

Dr. Landrum Cross, representing Bryan Rowland, presented the first reading of the Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96B, Commission Membership. Dr. Cross explained that this particular resolution is in response to the continuing need to make sure the forum that's provided by the Commission on Student Affairs accurately reflects the opportunity for student organizations to participate in that process. The demographics of our student body continues to shift and, therefore, the organizations and the strength of those organizations that represent them shift. From time to time, we need to look at the membership and see if there is a good representation of the diversity of the student body. A subgroup of CSA conducted a comprehensive overview of membership and this is their recommendation.


This resolution has been deferred to the April 15 meeting.

This resolution has been deferred to the April 15 meeting.

Dr. Rebecca Lovingood presented the second reading of the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1995-96A, New Graduate Degree Program Process. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

Second Reading, Commission on Research Resolution 95-96A, Academic Year/Calendar Year Appointment.

Dr. Hsiung Tze presented the second reading of the Commission on Research Resolution 95-96A, Academic Year/Calendar Year Appointment. Dr. Tze explained that this resolution is intended to document procedures for converting an academic-year appointment, under certain conditions, to a calendar-year appointment for faculty members who are typically fully supported on sponsored funding during the summer. Such a procedure will allow the typical summer earnings defined as wages by the Commonwealth to earn the same fringe benefits as calendar year compensation.

Dr. Ernie Stout presented an amendment to the resolution. In the interest of clarification, the commission would like to strike the third sentence in the policy procedures part, item one, and substitute the following two sentences, "The source of such funds will be sponsored grants and contracts. However, in the event of a temporary shortfall, the department head may use other sources of funds and make work assignments as appropriate." The clarification is to make it absolutely clear that the purpose of the program is a research incentive. It is to be from sponsored grants and contracts.

The resolution was voted upon and passed. The amendment was voted upon and passed.


Dr. Paul Metz presented the second reading of the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96B, Post-Tenure Review Process. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

Dr. Metz presented an amendment to correct grammatical errors in the resolution. An amended version of this resolution has been electronically distributed to Council members. The amendment was voted upon and passed.

Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, February 14, 1996
- Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies, March 6, 1996
- Commission on Admin. & Professional Faculty Affairs, February 20, 1996
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies, February 26, 1996

Announcements/Questions and Answers

Carole Nickerson reminded the group that any resolution they want passed in this academic year needs to be put forward for first reading at the next meeting, April 15, 1996. By constitution, items cannot be carried over between years so the next meeting is the last chance for a two reading resolution. There is no further opportunity for resolutions that require three readings.

Tom Sherman announced that the Staff and Faculty Senates will sponsor a forum featuring Provost Peggy Meszaros on Tuesday, April 9, at noon in the banquet room of Owens Dining Room. He encouraged everyone to attend and to encourage their colleagues to attend as well.
Peggy Meszaros reminded everyone that Gloria Steinem will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Center that evening and encouraged everyone to attend. This is the finale of Women's Month.

Rebecca Lovingood asked about the status of the Coliseum roof project. Minnis Ridenour reported that the project has been funded and authorization has been granted to move forward. Should be repaired in time for the basketball season this fall....but not to start until after Spring Commencement.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/cba
University Council Minutes, April 15, 1996


Guests: Susan Brooker-Gross, Provost's Office; Ellie Sturgis, Arts & Sciences; Dwight Shelton, Budget Office; Pat Hyer, Provost's Office; Jerry Via, CAEE--Athletic Advising; David William Smith, College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources; Dixon Hanna, Provost's Office; Steven Wilson, University Registrar's Office; Roy L. Kirkpatrick, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

1. Adoption of Agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Council Minutes of April 1, 1996.

Dr. Peggy Meszaros noted that the minutes from the April 1, 1996, University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

3. First Reading, Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A.

Marty O'Neill presented the first reading of the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A. Ms. O'Neill explained that this is a proposal to clarify an existing part of the Faculty Handbook. It clarifies the conditions under which an A/P faculty member can be reassigned to classified positions or have his/her salary reduced. The change in the language is from Section 3.6 of the Faculty Handbook, Section 2 - Reassignment. The language change does say transfer to a classified position and/or reduction in salary commensurate with reduced responsibilities. This came up as a question for clarification through the grievance process by A/P faculty who were on the grievance panel.

Pat Hyer further explained that the current language states that anybody who is A/P faculty can be reassigned at any time. The grievance panel just wanted to be sure that the reassignment included the reassignment to an appropriate classified position.

4. First Reading, Special Resolution Regarding Governance Representation during Merger Period of The Colleges of Human Resources and Education.

Dr. Janet Johnson presented the first reading of the Special Resolution Regarding Governance Representation during Merger Period of The Colleges of Human Resources and Education. Dr. Johnson explained that this resolution is being brought forward by the two deans as members of Council, rather than through commissions because it addresses an unusual situation. As the two colleges have considered their merger, one issue being examined is the representation on university commissions. That is traditionally done through elections in both colleges by faculty associations. The two faculty associations over the next year are going to methodically look at their constitutions and develop one constitution and one governance system. But until these two bodies are brought together, this resolution is being
submitted asking that all the incumbents and all of those who are about to be elected to university commissions for the two colleges be allowed to continue their terms until those terms expire. As the terms expire, elections will result in one person representing the College of Human Resources and Education on commissions. Over the next three years, there could possibly be two people from the College of Human Resources and Education on a given commission until one of the terms expire. This will go into effect immediately.


Dr. Ezra Brown presented the second reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1995-1996B, Academic Eligibility Policy. The Committee on Implementation Issues, which included faculty, support staff, and others, met after the April 1 Council Meeting and decided that the resolution's wording and content might not be in the best interest of the university. The Commission amended the resolution to address those concerns, while holding to the 2.0 as the minimum standard for academic good standing. The intent of this policy is to keep students from falling into QCA deficits they can't resolve. It is a pro-graduation policy.

The policy is effective for students entering Virginia Tech for the first time in summer 1997 and thereafter.

After extensive discussion about the need for faculty and department and college personnel to conscientiously intervene and advise students when they are in academic trouble, and contingent upon the Provost appointing a task force to look more closely at related intervention and resource decisions in the upcoming year, the amendment was voted upon and passed. The resolution was voted upon and passed.


Dr. Ezra Brown presented the second reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1996-1996C, Transition to New Academic Eligibility Policy. This policy addresses the students who are currently enrolled and will be enrolled when the policy is put into place. This particular policy will not affect current students until they are enrolled on or after May 15, 2000. This policy will not prevent current students from seeking intervention. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

7. Second Reading, Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1994-95G, To Allow Transfer Credit for Students Participating in NSEP and ISEP.

Dr. Ezra Brown presented the second reading of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies Resolution 1994-95G, To Allow Transfer Credit for Students Participating in NSEP and ISEP. Dr. Brown explained that this is primarily for those students who are in the National Student Exchange and International Student Exchange programs. This will allow those students to receive financial aid. This would encourage students to participate in NSEP and ISEP. The resolution was voted upon and passed.


Bryan Rowland presented the second reading of the Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 1995-96B, Commission Membership. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

9. Council approved/accepted a packet of Commission/Council minutes
comprised of:

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, March 19, 1996.
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, March 13, 1996.
- Commission on Faculty Affairs, February 16 and March 8, 1996.
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, March 20, 1996.
- Commission on Public Service and Extension, February 26, 1996.
- Commission on Research, February 28, 1996.
- Commission on Student Affairs, March 7 and March 21, 1996.
- Commission on University Support, December 5, 1995.
- University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting & Planning, February 8 and February 21, 1996.

10. Announcements/Questions and Answers

None

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/cba
University Council Minutes, May 6, 1996


Adoption of Agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approval of Council Minutes of April 15, 1996.

Dr. Peggy Meszaros noted that the minutes from the April 15, 1996, University Council meeting were voted on (and approved) electronically. They will now be sent to the Governance Information System on the GOPHER for public access.

Second Reading, Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A.

Dr. Pat Hyer presented the second reading of the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Resolution 1995-96A on behalf of Marty O’Neill. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

Second Reading, Special Resolution Regarding Governance Representation during Merger Period of the Colleges of Human Resources and Education.

Dr. Janet Johnson presented the second reading of the Special Resolution regarding Governance Representation during Merger Period of the Colleges of Human Resources and Education. The resolution was voted upon and passed.

Council approved/accepted a packet of Commission/Council minutes comprised of:

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, April 16, 1996.
Commission on Faculty Affairs, April 5, 1996.
Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, April 3, 1996.
Commission on Public Service and Extension, April 8, 1996.
Commission on Student Affairs, April 4, 1996.
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, April 8, 1996.
Commission on University Support, October 3, 1995 and February 6, 1996.

Announcements/Questions and Answers

Dr. Tom Sherman announced that Dr. Paul Metz will be president of Faculty Senate next year.

Dr. Meszaros noted that Dr. Torgersen was unable to attend the meeting due to heavy involvement in the regional campaigns in Richmond and Colonial Heights.

Since this was the last meeting of this academic year, Dr. Meszaros
reflected on the significant items that passed this Council's approval and review -- the five-year bachelor's/master's degree program; the reduction in force for program restructuring for discontinuance; a post-tenure review policy; and, an academic eligibility policy. These have been significant pieces of work that were done by the commissions and by the Council. The post-tenure review policy and the academic eligibility policy involved lengthy and very good discussion. She thanked Council members for their attention and seriousness with which they come to Council to debate issues and to have the university voice heard.

Dr. Wayne Worner announced that this was his last Council meeting after 25 years of service. He was first appointed by his dean, Karl Hereford. He noted that the Council when it first met had 17 administrators and 14 who were not administrators. Dr. Meszaros thanked Dr. Worner for his good council, wisdom, and judgment that he has brought to the university and to his colleagues.

Dr. Bud Brown announced that Dr. John Seiler from the College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources is going to be chairing the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies.

Dr. Metz announced that Dr. Jim McKenna will be chairing the Commission on Faculty Affairs.

Bryan Rowland announced that John Aughenbaugh will chair the Commission on Student Affairs.

Dr. John Burton will chair the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies.

John Tombarge will continue as chair of the Commission on University Support.

Dr. Norrine Bailey Spencer will chair the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs.

Dr. Meszaros reminded everyone that Tour DuPont will be taking place on the mall that afternoon, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Nickerson
Executive Assistant to the President

/cba