University Council Minutes  
March 21, 2011  
3:00 PM  
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent  John Dooley (with notice), Alan Grant, Robert Walters, Daniel Wubah (with notice), Nathan Lavinka, Bryan Cloyd, Susanna Rinehart, Lewis Wasserman, Dave Dugas, Tom Hammett, David Vaughan, Lori Anne Kirk, Christal Bacon, Wayne Scales, Jeff Chuang, Greer Kelly, Charles Petty, Deepu George (with notice), Shane McCarty

Guests: Michael Cardman, Jack Finney, Natalie Hart, Mary Ann Lewis, Ellen Plummer, Jason Thweatt

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 March 14, 2011

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 Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CUSP 2010-11C
Resolution to Revise the Constitution of the Undergraduate Honor System

Dr. Steve McMullin presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. McMullin informed the council members that this resolution is for standard updates to the Undergraduate Honor System.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CUSP 2010-11D
Resolution to Approve the Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology

Dr. Steve McMullin presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution will allow a new Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology which will be the only such degree in the State of Virginia.

3. Old Business

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
Resolution CSP 2010-11A
Resolution to Establish a Staff Career Achievement Award

Ms. Sue Teel presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CUSP 2010-11B
Pass/Fail Policy Grad Option for Undergraduates (Revised Policy No. 204)

Dr. Steve McMullin presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion to approve was seconded. This resolution changes the existing policy that students may apply the pass/fail grading option from ten percent of the required hours for graduation completed to a maximum of twelve credit hours. There was lengthy discussion about the impact of the proposed change on transfer students and those in five-year programs. A suggestion was made to change the policy to state that the pass/fail option can be either ten percent or twelve credit hours, whichever is greater, for those in a five-year program. This way, no student would be limited to fewer than twelve pass/fail credit hours. Dean Jack Davis moved to amend the resolution to add that “students in five-year programs will be allowed a pass/fail option of either twelve credit hours or ten percent of the required hours for graduation, whichever is greater.” The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the amendment and passed. Council then voted on the resolution as amended, and it passed.

4. 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 Faculty Affairs
  February 18, 2011

- Commission on Research
  February 9, 2011

- Commission on Student Affairs
  March 3, 2011

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  March 14, 2011

7. Adjournment

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