University Council Minutes
February 16, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent: John Dooley (with notice), Elizabeth Flanagan, Dwight Shelton (with notice), Ingrid Ngai, Jane Wemhoener, Diane Zahm (with notice), Sam Riley, Susanna Rinehart, Lewis Wasserman, Karen Inzana, Gene Seago, David Vaughan (with notice), Lori Anne Kirk (with notice), Teresa Lyons (with notice), Mary Alice Schaeffer, Kim Beisecker, Carson Byrd (with notice), Lauren Davis, Mike Parrish, Wayne Scales, Joe McFadden, Todd Metcalf, Thomas Hogdahl, Kelsie Lieberman, Kolt Risser, Rianka Urbina, Arlane Gordon-Bray

Guests: April Myers, Pat Hyer

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 2, 2009**

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](http://www.governance.vt.edu)).

3. **Announcements**

Dr. Steger informed the Council that two town hall meetings have been scheduled to address any concerns about the budget. The first meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday in Burruss Hall Auditorium. The second one is 11:00 a.m. Wednesday in the same place. The state’s budget reforecast is worse than the original shortfall of $2.9 billion. It is unclear as to how much the state and university may receive from the federal stimulus package.

4. **New Business**

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**
Resolution 2008-09A
Removal of a Principal, Co-Principal or Lead Investigator
Dr. Gary Long presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution has been approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs and the Commission on Research. If adopted, this resolution will establish steps for the removal process of a Principal, Co-Principal, or Lead Investigator (PI). Currently there is not an appeal process in the Faculty Handbook for the removal of a PI.

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**
Resolution 2008-09B
Professors of Practice

Dr. Gary Long presented the resolution for first reading and called upon Dr. Sam Easterling to explain the resolution. Dr. Easterling clarified that the resolution had been approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs and by the Faculty Senate; however, the Faculty Senate vote was not unanimous. The resolution creates a new faculty rank similar in concept to the clinical faculty rank employed by the vet school, which Dean Schurig affirmed has worked very well. This new rank is a good, but optional tool that a department may choose to use at its discretion. The professor of practice series does not have a mandatory research component, but may have a research component at the department’s discretion. There are no aspects of tenure associated with the professor of practice series. A concern was raised that having so many academic ranks diminishes the professorial ranks and may be problematic to administer.

5. **Old Business**

**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**
Resolution CAPFA 2008-09B
Teaching Credit Classes and Overload Compensation for Administrative and Professional Faculty Members

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

**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**
Resolution CAPFA 2008-09C
Resolution for changes to the Administrative and Professional Faculty Grievance Process

Ms. Frances Keene presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and Ms. Keene accepted a friendly amendment to add “termination for cause” under Valid Issues for Grievances, paragraph one. The resolution was approved.

**Commission on University Support**
Resolution CUS 2008-09B
Resolution to Amend Policy on Smoking (Revision to University Policy 1010)

On behalf of Bradley Scott, Ms. Leslie O’Brien presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval, which was seconded. After some discussion, the resolution was approved with the understanding that the twenty-five foot distance can be refined at a later date.

6. **Presentation on April 16 Committee Recommendations: Presented by Dr. Mark McNamee**

The committee made its recommendations to the President to not have classes on April 16, 2009, and April 16, 2010, in response to input received from committee members. The committee also recommended returning to a regular class schedule on April 16, 2012 (April 16,
2011 falls on a Saturday and will not affect the University Calendar. The President approved of the committee’s recommendations. A master schedule of commemorative activities will be drafted and released in the near future. The renovations and opening of Norris Hall should be completed prior to April 16, 2009.

7. **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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity
  December 8, 2008
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
  December 3, 2008
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
  December 11, 2008
- Commission on Research
  November 12, 2008
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
  December 16, 2008
- Commission on Student Affairs
  October 16, 2008
  November 20, 2008
  December 4, 2008
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  December 8, 2008
- Commission on University Support
  November 20, 2008

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.