University Council Minutes
March 30, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent: John Dooley (with notice), Kevin McDonald, Ingrid Ngai, Daphne Rainey-Wittich, Diane Zahm, Bob Denton (with notice), Sam Riley, Susanna Rinehart, Lewis Wasserman, Bill Galloway, Karen Inzana, Gene Seago, Bob Sturges, David Vaughan (with notice), Shep Zedaker, Lori Anne Kirk (with notice), Teresa Lyons, Mary Alice Schaeffer, Lauren Davis, Mike Parrish, Wayne Scales, Thomas Hogdahl, Kelsie Lieberman, Kolt Risser, Rianka Urbina, Linsey Barker, Hardus Odendaal, Arlane Gordon-Bray

Guests: Denny Cochrane, Mike Coleman, Angie DeSoto, Kristina Hartman, Pat Hyer, Sara Murrill, 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 March 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).

3. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2008-09B
Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs

Dr. Paul Deck presented the resolution for first reading. There is a need to establish a uniform policy umbrella to handle the accelerated undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

It was mentioned that the changes in the resolution make the program more restrictive and less attractive to high caliber undergraduate students which may result in a decline of the program usage. It was suggested to limit the number of 4000-level courses to six credits with no additional restrictions. It was also mentioned that the undergraduate student is being asked to make an irrevocable decision on which track (professional or research) they wish to take too early in their academic career.
Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution 2008-09A
Resolution Amending the Constitution of the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Joe McFadden presented the resolution for first reading. The main points of the resolution are:

- General procedure updates
- Membership will be free of cost
- The addition of the Graduate and Professional School Day chair
- The establishment of the Karen DePauw Graduate Fund Annual Review Committee
- Removal of the GSA Budget Board
- The addition of the GSA Executive Assistant
- The addition of the GSA Historian

Commission on University Support
Resolution 2008-09C
The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution

Ms. Leslie O’Brien presented the resolution for first reading. Ms. O’Brien asked Mr. Mike Coleman, Chair of the Energy and Sustainability Committee, to give background information and answer any questions about the resolution. In April 2008, Dr. Steger charged the Energy and Sustainability Committee with drafting a Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment.

Dr. Steger encouraged everyone to read the Virginia Tech Climate Commitment and Sustainability plan closely. The President then asked Dr. Mark McNamee to look at implementation and functionality of the virtual Virginia Tech School of Sustainability. He also requested the Energy and Sustainability Committee work with Mr. Dwight Shelton to look at the benefits versus costs of the key proposals and the target return on investment (ROI), and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

4. Old Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2008-09A
Defending Student Status for Qualified Graduate Students

Dr. Paul Deck presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously.

5. Announcement

Dr. Steger announced that the final budget will be announced after the special session of the the General Assembly which will reconvene on April 8, 2009.

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 18, 2009

• Commission on Faculty Affairs
  February 13, 2009
  February 27, 2009

• Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
  January 21, 2009
  February 4, 2009

• Commission on Research
  February 11, 2009

• Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
  January 20, 2009
  February 17, 2009

• Commission on Student Affairs
  February 5, 2009
  February 19, 2009

• Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  February 9, 2009

• Commission on University Support
  February 19, 2009

7. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
January 22, 2009

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m.