University Council Minutes  
May 1, 2017  
3:00 PM  
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent: Jack Davis, Michael Friedlander, Steve McKnight, Richard Ashley, Dean Stauffer (with notice), Bryan Brown, Robert Bush (with notice), Christopher Beattie, Jennifer Brill, Kathrine Carter, Paul Herr, Lisa Kennedy, Nathan King, Judy Alford (with notice), Tracey Drowne, Robin Lawson, Teresa Lyons, Sue Teel (with notice), John Benner, John Massey (with notice), Miram Nure, Preston Huennekens, Brett Netto, & Julia Billingsley (with notice)

Guests: Denny Cochrane, Jack Finney, Rachel Holloway, Brian Lee, April Myers, Ellen Plummer, Karlee Siepierski, & Diane Zahm

Dr. Sands 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 April 17, 2017

Dr. Sands 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. Presentation

Mr. Denny Cochrane gave a presentation on sustainability (Attached).

4. Old Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2016-17E
Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed with one vote in opposition.
Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2016-17H
Resolution Clarifying Standards of Appeals Language in Faculty Handbook

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution CSA 2016-17A
Resolution on the Commission on Student Affairs Membership

Mr. Matthew Chan presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution CSA 2016-17B
Resolution to Include the President of the Muslim Student Union of Virginia Tech to the Commission on Student Affairs Membership

Mr. Matthew Chan presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

5. 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
  April 7, 2017

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
  April 5, 2017

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
  March 16, 2017

- Commission on Student Affairs
  February 23, 2017
  March 2, 2017

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  April 10, 2017

6. Announcement

Ms. Mary Beth Dunkenberger announced that the Women’s Alliance will be sending the President a request to establish a Council on Gender Equity.

6. Adjournment
There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m.
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- AY 2006-2007 students approach University to make sustainability a priority
- April 2007 Energy and Sustainability Committee (E&SC) established
- October 2007 Sustainability Week Program (VT, Town and local citizens)
- April 2008 E&SC charged to develop a climate commitment and sustainability plan for Virginia Tech and seek approval using the University governance system
- April 22, 2009 (Earth Day) University Council recommended approval of the VT Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) and accepted the Sustainability Plan
- June 1, 2009 Virginia Tech Board of Visitors approved the VTCAC
- May 9, 2013 VTCAC revised (Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 262 Rev 1)
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY’S ROLE

‣ VTCAC Point #5: Virginia Tech will maintain a sustainability office to:
  ‣ Coordinate campus sustainability programs
  ‣ Oversee implementation of Climate Action Commitment & Sustainability Plan
  ‣ Manage a campus-wide student internship program
  ‣ Coordinate communication efforts regarding campus sustainability initiatives to the university community and external audiences
  ‣ Track and report sustainability progress

CAMPUS PROGRAMS, ENGAGEMENT, & OUTREACH

‣ Energy & Sustainability Committee
  ‣ Provide leadership and administrative support

‣ LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Program
  ‣ 15 certified buildings containing 1,235,598 Gross Square Feet

‣ Student Green RFP Program
  ‣ 43 proposals approved with funds totaling over $450,000

‣ Single Stream Recycling
  ‣ Bottles & cans, paper, and cardboard collected in single container
  ‣ VTCAC point 8 goal is 50% recycle rate by 2020

‣ Sustainability Week
  ‣ Flagship outreach program with the Town of Blacksburg and community
SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2016 CELEBRATION CEREMONY
Henderson Lawn September 22, 2016

2017 GOVERNOR’S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
Sustainability Program Category
Received Silver award for demonstrating sustainability culture for the past 10 years

Presented at the 28th annual Environment Virginia Symposium on April 4, 2017
STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

› Full academic year internship focused on sustainable behavior change through education, outreach, events, & campaigns
  › 20 students serving on 4 teams: Recycling, Resident, Energy, Communications
  › 10 hour per week commitment

Earth Week 2017 Events

STARS SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

› The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a voluntary, transparent self-reporting framework for helping colleges and universities track and measure their sustainability progress

› STARS measures performance in the following categories:
  › Academics
  › Engagement
  › Operations
  › Planning & Administration
  › Innovation & Leadership
STARS SUB-CATEGORIES

‣ Academics (29%)
  ‣ Curriculum, research

‣ Engagement (20%)
  ‣ Campus engagement, public engagement

‣ Operations (35%)
  ‣ Air & climate, buildings, energy, food & dining, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, water

‣ Planning & Administration (16%)
  ‣ Coordination & planning, diversity & affordability, investment & finance, well-being & work

‣ Innovation & Leadership
  ‣ Up to 4 bonus points available

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STARS RATINGS

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<th>STARS Rating</th>
<th>Minimum Score Required</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
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Similar to LEED Certification

‣ Virginia Tech has participated in STARS since 2011 and earned a Gold Rating in October 2014 (ratings valid for up to 3 years)
‣ STARS is a team effort, you are our partners and our Sustainability Champions!
‣ Virginia Tech is committed to being a “Leader in Campus Sustainability”
CONTACT INFORMATION

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› Denny Cochrane, Sustainability Program Manager
  › denniscc@vt.edu  540-231-5184

› Karlee Siepieski, Campus Sustainability Planner
  › skarlee3@vt.edu  540-231-7358

› www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability