UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2011
3:00 p.m.
1045 Pamplin Hall
AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda
   Dr. Charles Steger

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of November 14, 2011
   Dr. Charles Steger
   
   These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web.

3. New Business

   Commission on Faculty Affairs
   Resolution 2011-12A
   Initial Appointment for Extra Collegiate Library and Extension Faculty on the Continued Appointment Track
   
   Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
   Resolution 2011-12D
   Resolution to Approve the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Culture
   
   Dr. Sarah Karpanty

   Dr. Robin Paneton

4. Old Business

   Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
   Resolution 2011-12A
   Resolution to Approve Revisions to University Policy 4060: Conviction and Driving Record Investigation
   
   Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
   Resolution 2011-12B
   Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials
   
   Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
   Resolution 2011-12C
   Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education
   
   Ms. Amy Hogan

   Dr. Robin Panneton

5. Announcement of acceptance and posting of Commission Minutes
   Dr. Charles Steger
   
   These minutes have been accepted for filing by electronic vote and will be posted on the University web. 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
   October 10, 2011
   October 24, 2011

   Commission on Faculty Affairs
   October 21, 2011

   Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
   November 2, 2011

   Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
   October 20, 2011
6. **For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
October 27, 2011

7. **Adjournment**

Dr. Charles Steger
University Council Minutes  
December 5, 2011  
3:00 PM  
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent: Daniel Wubah (with notice), Meghan Kuhn (with notice), Susanna Rinehart, Mike Denbow (with notice), Dave Dugas, Sam Riley, Debra Salbador (with notice), Dan Cook (with notice), Teresa Lyons, Jen Mirabella (with notice), Justin Graves, Patricia Smith, Thomas Carl Long, Corbin Dimeglio, Adam Smith, Matt Banfield, Maxine Lyons

Guests: Kevin Edgar, Jack Finney, Barry Goodell, Hal Irvin, Curtis Mabry, April Myers, Ellen Plummer, Peter Schmitthenner, Dean Stauffer, Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, Dan Thorp

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 November 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 Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2011-12A  
Initial Appointment for Extra-Collegiate Library and Extension Faculty on the Continued-Appointment Track

Dr. Sarah Karpanty presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Karpanty indicated that this resolution is seeking to clarify the issue of instructor versus assistant professor for the entry rank of extra-collegiate library and extension faculty on the continued-appointment track.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CUSP 2011-12D  
Resolution to Approve the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Culture

Dr. Robin Panneton presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Panneton explained that in 2009, as part of the strategic planning process for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the former Department of Interdisciplinary Studies was subdivided. Some of the department's degree options transferred to the Department of Sociology while others transferred to the new Department of Religion and Culture. At the same
time, a request was made to SCHEV to rename the existing Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree to the Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Culture. Because of the different scope and focus of the new Department of Religion and Culture, SCHEV denied the request to change the degree name and suggested the change go through the new degree proposal process. Dr. Elizabeth Struthers Malbon informed Council members that the Religion and Culture degree is more focused than the Interdisciplinary Studies degree and that this focus will help students in the job market. There are currently 32 students who have declared Religion and Culture as their major, and this number is expected to grow.

4. **Old Business**

**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CAPFA 2011-12A
Resolution to Approve Revisions to University Policy 4060

Ms. Amy Hogan presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. Concerns about the lack of time limits on conviction checks were voiced. Dr. Karpanty informed Council members that the CFA discussed the issue of time limits with Human Resources as well as the need to clarify policies regarding how applicants can respond to issues resulting from conviction checks. Dr. Karpanty made a motion to amend the resolution to add “This policy is subject to the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).” to the last sentence under section 2.2 of Policy 4060. The motion was seconded.

Dr. Steger indicated that he is in favor of conviction checks if they are fair, and suggested there may be a need to research the issue of statute of limitations. He then proposed that the policy be further clarified and that Legal Counsel review the resolution for potential concerns. Dean DePauw moved to defer (i.e., postpone to a certain time) the resolution to the next meeting, and the motion was seconded. The motion to defer the resolution passed.

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2011-12B
Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials

Dr. Robin Panneton presented the resolution for second reading and noted that this resolution was approved by both the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies and the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies. She made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded. A friendly amendment was proposed to correct the name of some of the other institutions mentioned in the resolution. Dr. Panneton accepted the friendly amendment. The changes will be made to the resolution that is posted.

A vote was taken, and the motion to approve the resolution (with the friendly amendment) passed.

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2011-12C
Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education.

Dr. Robin Panneton presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. A question was raised about how the situation would be addressed if a course were removed and the following year the department decided the course should not have been removed. Dr. Panneton explained that the process would be to go back through the governance system to add the course back on the books.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed.
5. **Announcements**

Dr. Steger indicated the Governor’s budget will be available on December 19, 2011. The Governor is going to try to give a little extra money to higher education. The issues being considered in regards to the budget are:

- How to contain tuition costs
- The possibility of a reduction in the Federal Pell Grant program
- The possibility of the university operating a regular academic program for twelve months out of the year

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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
  October 10, 2011  
  October 24, 2011

- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
  October 21, 2011

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
  November 2, 2011

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
  October 20, 2011

- Commission on Research  
  October 12, 2011

- Commission on University Support  
  October 20, 2011

7. **For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
October 27, 2011

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m.