1. Adoption of Agenda
   Dr. Timothy Sands

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 22, 2014
   Dr. Timothy Sands
   These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web.

3. New Business
   Dr. Timothy Sands
   - Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
     Resolution 2014-15C
     Resolution to Establish the Master of Arts Degree in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics
     Dr. Hans Robinson
   - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
     Resolution 2014-15A
     Resolution to Approve New Major, Criminology in the Bachelor of Science in Sociology
     Dr. Stephen Martin
   - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
     Resolution 2014-15B
     Resolution to Approve New Major, Residential Environments and Design in the Bachelor of Science in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management
     Dr. Stephen Martin
   - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
     Resolution 2014-15C
     Resolution to Approve New Degree in Bachelor of Science in Systems Biology
     Dr. Stephen Martin
   - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
     Resolution 2014-15D
     Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Science, and Environment
     Dr. Stephen Martin

4. Announcement of acceptance and posting of Commission Minutes
   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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
     May 14, 2014
     September 10, 2014

   - Commission on Research
     May 14, 2014

5. Discussion Topics
   Discussion topics have been scheduled as follows:
   - October 20, 2014
     Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) – next steps, and innovative practices in teaching and learning (Dale Pike)
   - November 3, 2014
     Relationship between the Foundation and the University (John Dooley, Dwight Shelton)
   - December 1, 2014
     Budget process and capital planning process (Dwight Shelton)

6. Adjournment
   Dr. Timothy Sands
University Council Minutes
October 6, 2014
3:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent: Elizabeth Flanagan (with notice), Tom Tillar, Maxine Lyons, Joe Merola (with notice), Bruce Pencek, Kathrine Carter (with notice), Dave Dugas, Tom Fox, Nanda Nanthakumar, Stacey Poertner (with notice), Brett Besag (with notice), Matthew Chan, Dan Cook (with notice), Austin Larrowe, Ashley Francis (with notice)

Guests: Jack Finney, Rachel Holloway, Hal Irvin, Sandra Muse, April Myers, Eric Smith, David Travis, Jr.

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 September 22, 2014

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. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2014-15C
Resolution to Establish the Master of Arts Degree in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for first reading.

This new degree will be directed primarily at students whose home department is not in statistics, but make extensive use of statistical techniques and methods in their research. This degree will be a way for these students to take classes from the Department of Statistics and document their competency. A question was raised as to why this new degree is a Master of Arts instead of a Master of Science degree. Dr. Eric Smith indicated that there is currently a Master of Science degree in Statistics which has a more theoretical component to it, and the new Master of Arts degree being proposed focuses more on applications. The new degree will be exam based and not thesis based.
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2014-15A
Resolution to Approve New Major, Criminology in the Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is converting an option to a major. Converting an option to a major makes the program more distinguishable on a student’s transcript. This will also help to make the student more marketable for occupations such as FBI agents, CSI agents, national security intelligence analysts, police officers etc.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2014-15B
Resolution to Approve New Major, Residential Environments and Design in the Bachelor of Science in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is also converting an option to a major. There are no major changes in curriculum and course offerings with this resolution.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2014-15C
Resolution to Approve New Degree in Bachelor of Science in Systems Biology

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. It is one of several new interdisciplinary degrees coming through the College of Science. This new degree will be able to leverage a lot of existing resources in this area such as VBI and the Fralin Life Science Institute. This will allow an undergraduate degree in this area. This degree will be housed in the Academy of Integrated Science. Other degrees in the academy include nanoscience, neuroscience, and computational modeling and data analytics. The academy provides a structure for student advising.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2014-15D
Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Science, and Environment

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. This program has never seen significant enrollment and has fallen below the threshold set by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for the continuation of the degree, so it is being discontinued.

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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
  May 14, 2014
  September 10, 2014

- Commission on Research
  May 14, 2014
5. Announcement of Discussion Topics

Discussion topics have been scheduled as follows:

**October 20, 2014**
Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) – next steps, and innovative practices in teaching and learning (Dale Pike)

**November 3, 2014**
Relationship between the Foundation and the University (John Dooley, Dwight Shelton)

**December 1, 2014**
Budget process and capital planning process (Dwight Shelton)

6. Discussion

Benefits for Same-Sex Married Couples - President Sands called on Dr. Hal Irvin to comment on today’s action by the U.S. Supreme Court and its effect on Virginia Tech employees. Dr. Irvin explained that the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to decline to review the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in *Bostic v. Schaefer* means same-sex marriage is now legal in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The university is awaiting guidance from the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management regarding the process for same-sex married couples to apply for benefits. There is no effect for employees who have domestic partners; domestic partners remain ineligible for benefits. Dr. DePauw noted, however, that the Supreme Court’s action has no effect on graduate students receiving assistantships because the private company providing their health insurance already allowed them to insure domestic partners. Dr. Sands indicated that the Supreme Court’s action will now enable Virginia Tech to recruit those who are directly affected by the court’s action.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m.