

## University Council Minutes

April 3, 2023

3:30 PM

### Creativity and Innovation District Building Multipurpose Library (104)

**Present:** Tim Sands (presiding), April Myers, Cyril Clarke, Amy Sebring, Daniel Sui, Bryan Garey, Menah Pratt, Frances Keene, Rachel Holloway, Alan Grant, Daniel Givens, Debra Stoudt for Laura Belmonte, Rosemary Blieszner, Paul Winistorfer, Julia Ross, Robin Russell, Lee Learman, Dwayne Edwards, Robert Weiss, Rachel Miles, Robin Queen, Holli Gardner Drewry, Janice Austin, Jennifer Jones, Serena Young, LaTawnya Burleson, Bruce Harper, Caroline Lohr, Shahed Sanuri, Jamal Ross, Ainsley Cragin, Ben Beiter, Chloe Jade Robertson, Noor Tasnim, Carla Finkielstein, A.K. Ward Bartlett, Leigh-Anne Krometis, Holly Kindsvater for Daniel Hindman, Evan Lavender-Smith, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Azziza Bankole, Callan Bartel, Nicole Akers, Melissa Faircloth, John Gray Williams, Kelly Oaks, & Jan Helge Bøhn

**Absent with notice:** Kim O'Rourke & Aimée Surprenant

**Absent:** Kevin Pitts, Paul Knox, Tyler Walters, Anna Buhle, Masoud Agah, Nathan King, Lujean Baab, Jamie McElfresh, & Shania Clinedinst

**Guests:** Demetria Somervell, Lori Buchanan, Steve Clark, Sally Shupe, Dee Harris, Kari Evans, Alice Fox, James Bridgeforth, Kat Nelson, Monique L. Logan, Margaret Nagai-Singer, Madeline Boudville, Kelsey Murphy, Debbie Greer, Ron Fricker, Brandy Morse, & Kanitta Charoensiri

Dr. Sands called the hybrid meeting to order at 3:30 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 13, 2023

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. Unfinished Business

##### **Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

##### **Resolution CAPFA 2022-23A**

Resolution to Revise the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Constitution

Janice Austin presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

##### **Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity**

##### **Resolution CEOD 2022-23B**

Resolution to Approve the Land Acknowledgement and Labor Recognition Statements

LaTawnya Burleson presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

#### 4. New Business

**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**  
**Resolution CAPFA 2022-23B**

Resolution to Revise Chapter 7, Section 7, of the Faculty Handbook

Janice Austin presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is specifically about the administrative and professional faculty grievance process. This revision will allow additional time for the administrative process.

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs**  
**Resolution CGPSA 2022-23A**

Resolution to Expand and Secure Access to Reproductive Care at Virginia Tech

Alice Fox presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution has been revised from the original version that was distributed for comments to the senates. The current version adds an implementation committee to better look at every specific number and avenue to ensure all bases are covered. This resolution is intended to try to provide options for graduate and professional students at a low cost. The ballpark estimated cost for this will be an annual cost of \$520,000 and an initial cost of \$600,000 which would include hiring an additional OBGYN, hiring an ultrasound tech, and purchasing an ultrasound machine. Many graduate and professional students are either international students who do not have American health insurance or are over the age of 26 and have aged out of their parents' health insurance.

The president opened the floor for comments. The following points were made in the ensuing discussion.

A letter (attached) from a group of graduate students on campus who are invested in the preservation of Virginia Tech's commitment to a culture of safety was read asking for this resolution to be defeated.

A question was then raised as to whether this matter is appropriate to be considered in shared governance. One of the principles of shared governance clearly expresses that each constituent body within the university has a particular role and authority. There is a differentiation of function of the Board of Visitors, the university leadership, faculty, staff, and students. This particular matter is differentiated in its accountability and responsibility and should fall within the domain of university leadership. Matters that are substantively impacted by financial and logistical considerations fall within the domain of university leadership. An example of this is when decisions were made during the COVID pandemic. A suggestion was made that the governing documents should describe clearly what fits within shared governance.

University Council Cabinet determined that this resolution does fall within the charge of the Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs, specifically the section of the charge that mentions matters related to graduate and professional student health and safety.

It was indicated that Schiffert Health Services provides care as one would receive from their primary care physician, and doesn't typically provide specialty care. The services provided are directly supported by the student health fees which creates limitations. Schiffert is accredited through ACHA which has standards for what basic services are covered. General health issues are covered in those standards and some specialized areas such as sports medicine. Other specialized areas are referred outside to a community specialist.

It was indicated that the University Council Cabinet should be providing guidance to constituent groups on what path to take for certain matters that are not appropriate for shared governance.

A suggestion was made to look at what the cost to the university is for an unwanted pregnancy such as when GTAs GRAs have to take leave from their work. Undergraduate students may have to leave the university due to an unwanted pregnancy which is also a loss of revenue.

Some undergraduate students have questioned how the student health fee is used. Some students have expressed concern that they do not wish for their fee to pay for these types of services.

Schiffert Health Services is an auxiliary and is fully supported by the student health fee, which also supports Hokie Wellness and Cook Counseling Center. The budget development process begins in the summer and is approved in June. Anything that is in this cycle has been vetted and approved. This resolution is not able to be implemented in this budget cycle but can be analyzed for a full set of options regarding reproductive care and family planning services.

A comment was made that it is becoming more common practice for primary care physicians to offer first trimester abortion care.

It was shared from the Staff Senate's Policy and Issues Committee that this resolution is to expand and secure reproductive care to ensure no gaps in reproductive care remain. With that said, the largest gap remains because there were no solutions expressed for those that elect to give birth.

### **Commission on Staff Polices and Affairs**

#### **Resolution CSPA 2022-23A**

Resolution Revise the Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws

LaTawnya Burleson presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution will align the Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws with the updates made to the University Council Constitution and Bylaws and revises the membership structure.

### **5. Announcement of Approval and Posting of UC Cabinet, Commission and Committee 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 Cabinet and Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council Bylaws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
November 9, 2022  
February 8, 2023
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
February 17, 2023
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs  
November 1, 2022  
December 6, 2022  
February 7, 2023  
March 14, 2023
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies  
September 7, 2022  
September 21, 2022  
October 19, 2022  
November 2, 2022  
November 16, 2022  
December 7, 2022  
February 1, 2023  
March 1, 2023  
March 15, 2023

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs

February 16, 2023

- Commission on Research  
February 9, 2023
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
February 27, 2023  
March 13, 2023
- Budgeting and Planning Committee  
February 16, 2023
- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee  
February 27, 2023

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

417 Smyth Hall  
Blacksburg, VA, 24061

March 13<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
Graduate Life Center  
Blacksburg, VA, 24061

Dear GPSS,

We are part of a group of graduate students on campus that are invested in the preservation of Virginia Tech's long-held commitment to a culture of safety. Allowing Virginia Tech healthcare services to supply mifepristone and misoprostol is a direct violation of this culture as this endangers the most vulnerable in our society: the unborn. Therefore, we are writing this letter to indicate our **non-support** of the CGPSA Resolution to Expand & Secure Access to Reproductive Care at Virginia Tech.

All humans have a fundamental right to life, whether born or unborn. Supplying abortion pills, which by design deprive the right of life to a human being, is a direct violation of Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim*, That I May Serve. If we are to truly uphold our beloved school's ethos, then we must also extend our service to those who have no voice or the ability to defend themselves. By striking down the resolution, we will continue to uphold our motto through advocating for the unborn. If this resolution passes, we will have abdicated our duty as members of the Virginia Tech community to uphold our motto.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We truly feel you will allow every voice on campus to be heard, not just the loudest amongst us.

Best Regards,

*Derek Hilfiker      Jonathan Kubesch      Frank Reith*

Derek Hilfiker      Jonathan Kubesch      Frank Reith

## University Council Votes

April 3, 2023

<b>Name</b>	<b>Do you approve CAPFA Resolution 2022-23A ?</b>	<b>Do you approve CEOD Resolution 2022-23B?</b>
Leigh Anne Krometis	Yes	Yes
Serena Young	Yes	Yes
Shahed Sanuri	Yes	Yes
Robin Russell	Yes	Yes
Carla Finkielstein	Yes	Yes
Caroline Lohr	Yes	Yes
Bryan Garey	Yes	Yes
Paul Winistorfer	Yes	Yes
Callan Bartel	Yes	Yes
Holli Drewry	Yes	Yes
Rachel Holloway	Yes	Yes
Cyril Clarke	Yes	Yes
Janice Austin	Yes	Yes
Kelly Oaks	Yes	Yes
Anna Ward Bartlett	Yes	Yes
Rachel Miles	Yes	Yes
Julie Ross	Yes	Yes
Frances Keene	Yes	Yes
Azziza Bankole	Yes	Yes
Ben Beiter	Yes	Yes
Melissa Faircloth	Yes	Yes
Jennifer Jones	Yes	Yes
Nicole Akers	Yes	Yes
Robert Weiss	Yes	Yes
Debra Stoudt	Yes	Yes
Bruce Harper	Yes	Yes
Menah Pratt	Yes	Yes
Jan Helge Bohn	Yes	Yes
Evan Lavender-Smith	Yes	Yes
Alan Grant	Yes	Yes
Chloe Jade Robertson	Yes	Yes
Dwayne Edwards	Yes	Yes
Thomas Pingel	Yes	Yes
Dan Givens	Yes	Yes
LaTawnya Burleson	Yes	Yes
Daniel Sui	Yes	Yes
Noor Tasnim	Yes	Yes
Jamal Ross	Yes	Yes
Rosemary Blieszner	Yes	Yes
Robin Queen	Yes	Yes
Amy Sebring	No Response	No Response
Lee Learman	No Response	No Response
Lee Learman	No Response	No Response
Ainsley Cragin	No Response	No Response
Virginia Buechner-Maxwell	No Response	No Response