

**University Council Minutes**  
**April 17, 2023**  
**3:30 PM**  
**Creativity and Innovation District Building Multipurpose Library (104)**

**Present:** Cyril Clarke (presiding), Kim O'Rourke April Myers, Amy Sebring, Laurel Miner for Daniel Sui, Ellen Banks for Bryan Garey, Menah Pratt, Frances Keene, Aimée Surprenant, Rachel Holloway, Tom Thompson for Alan Grant, Daniel Givens, Rosemary Blieszner, Kevin Pitts, Paul Winistorfer, Julia Ross, Lee Learman, Tyler Walters, Dwayne Edwards, Robert Weiss, Rachel Miles, Robin Queen, Holli Gardner Drewry, Janice Austin, Jennifer Jones, Serena Young, LaTawnya Burlison, Bruce Harper, Caroline Lohr, Shahed Sanuri, Ainsley Cragin, Ben Beiter, Chloe Jade Robertson, Noor Tasnim, A.K. Ward Bartlett, Leigh-Anne Krometis, Holly Kindsvater for Daniel Hindman, Evan Lavender-Smith, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Azziza Bankole, Jamie McElfresh, Callan Bartel, Nicole Akers, Melissa Faircloth, John Gray Williams, Kelly Oaks, & Jan Helge Bøhn

**Absent with notice:** Tim Sands, Robin Russell, Paul Knox, & Shania Clinedinst

**Absent:** Laura Belmonte, Jamal Ross, Anna Buhle, Carla Finkielstein, Masoud Agah, Nathan King, & Lujean Baab

**Guests:** Demetria Somervell, Lori Buchanan, Steve Clark, Tristan Southerland, Kara Latopolski, Monty Abbas, Sally Shupe, Dee Harris, Kari Evans, Alice Fox, James Bridgeforth, Kat Nelson, Monique L. Logan, Margaret Nagai-Singer, Debbie Greer, Matt Dejager, Keith Thompson, Rebecca Moreau, Susan Anderson, Elizabeth Hurley, Chris Wise, Grace Knick, Tiernan Barber, Jennifer Nardine, Cori Ruktanonchai, Joseph Briggs, Caroline De Jager, Sarah Khatibzadeh, Cash Deane, Kim Daniloski, Jus Tupik, Mary Schurter, Jennifer Colebrook, & Anna Johnson

Dr. Clarke 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 April 3, 2023**

Dr. Clarke 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 2022-23B**

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

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

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs**

**Resolution CGPSA 2022-23A**

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

Ben Beiter presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. Two letters of support for this resolution were received by the office of policy and governance and are attached. A vote was taken, and it was determined that there were more votes cast than there were voting

members in attendance. Because the initial vote was close, the attendance was confirmed offline, and the votes were recounted. The motion passed with 25 votes in favor of the resolution, 18 votes in opposition, and one abstention.

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

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

Resolution Revise the Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws

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 Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGPSP 2022-23C

Resolution to Create the Department of Neurosurgery at VTC School of Medicine

Monty Abbas presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution will elevate the section of Neurosurgery in the Department of Surgery to become a standing department by itself. This is in response to the growth in terms of medical students, resident physicians, and other health professions students. It was indicated that it is common in medical schools for a surgery department to cleave off a department of neurosurgery once it has a critical mass. The neurosurgery department would have separate residency programs and a separate research agenda.

#### **Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGPSP 2022-23D

Resolution to Establish a Master of Professional Studies Degree in Climate Leadership

Monty Abbas presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution seeks to establish a professional master's degree in climate leadership. This degree will be administered online by the Center for Environmental Security. This program is aligning with the vision of Virginia Tech as it aims to prepare students to serve in leadership roles that are committed to helping communities respond to climate change.

#### **Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs**

Resolution CUSA 2022-23A

Resolution to Approve Revisions and Updates to the Virginia Tech Student Code of Conduct

Sanuri Shahed presented the resolution for first reading and introduced Nick Whitesell, Associate Director of Student Conduct, to provide information on the resolution. This resolution will provide several updates to the student code of conduct to be implemented in the 2023-24 academic year. There are several administrative changes along with more substantive policy changes and definition changes. The major changes include prohibiting anyone under the age of 21 from using tobacco (to align with current law); prohibiting climbing, rappelling, or scaling campus structures; prohibiting impersonation of another person with the intent of deceiving another person; clarifying the theft policy; and updating the definition of incapacitation.

#### **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2022-23B

Resolution to Allow Administrative Resolution of First-Time Honor Code Cases

Evan Lavender-Smith presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution proposes changes to policy 6000 and the Virginia Tech Honor Code Manual to include the option for administrative resolution of academic misconduct cases when a student is referred to the Undergraduate Honors System for the first time or when a student is accepting responsibility for the violation but disputing the recommended sanctions.

## **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.

- University Council Cabinet  
March 27, 2023
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
March 27, 2023
- Athletics Committee  
March 16, 2023
- Campus Development Committee  
November 1, 2022  
December 6, 2022
- Information Technology Services and Systems Committee  
November 9, 2022

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

April 4, 2023

Dear Committee,

I am writing to indicate my full **support for the GPSS Resolution to Expand Access to Reproductive Care**. This resolution concerns critical healthcare needs for women. In order for women to live their optimal lives and thrive in their families and communities, women must have access to all of the resources required to maintain their mental, physical and emotional well-being. A core component of this holistic health is Comprehensive Reproductive healthcare, which includes all of the educational, clinical and community service options for care and treatment of women.

Women deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. This includes being *fully informed* about and having *access to* all healthcare options available. Every woman has the right to select the best options for herself and her family including if and when to have children. I whole-heartedly support women having access to the most effective, timely, affordable (low-or-no cost), and safe, birth control and family planning methods through the health clinic. Access to mifepristone and misoprostol (the abortion pills) and other reproductive health services are essential to support all women's personal rights and self-determination.

The most esteemed experts in women's health, the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG) states:

*All women should have unhindered and affordable access to all U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives.*

Access to contraception. Committee Opinion No. 615.  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2015;125:250-5.

In support of all women's rights,  
Cornelia Ramsey Deagle, PHD, MSPH

I'm a concerned community member, parent, and abortion access supporter writing to express my support for the GPSS resolution to expand and secure access to reproductive care at Virginia Tech, specifically for on campus access to mifepristone and misoprostol.

Access to healthcare, and specifically reproductive care, can be costly and time-consuming for students, and anything that can be done to make access easier and more affordable should be done. The current closest in-person clinics offering appointments specifically for prescribing the mifepristone and misoprostol protocol are 45 minutes away in Roanoke. While these medications can be prescribed by telehealth appointments in Virginia currently, there are a limited number of clinics who can provide these appointments, and expanding that number moves us closer to timely, safe access to medication abortions for those who need them.

Thank you,  
Nicola (she/hers)  
Volunteer/Board Member  
[New River Abortion Access Fund](#)

University Council Votes  
 April 17, 2023

Name	Do You approve CAPFA Resolution 2022-23B?	Do you approve CGPSA Resolution 2022-23A?	Do you approve CSPA Resolution 2022-23A?
Serena Young	Yes	No	Yes
Jamie McElfresh	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Gray Williams	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Winistorfer	Yes	No	Yes
Shahed Sanuri	Yes	Yes	Yes
Caroline Lohr	Yes	Yes	Yes
Callan Bartel	Yes	No	Yes
Nicole Akers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leigh-Anne Krometis	Yes	No	Yes
Janice Austin	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kevin Pitts	Yes	No	Yes
Azziza Bankole	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aimée Surprenant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dan Givens	Yes	No	Yes
Chloe Robertson	Yes	Yes	Yes
Holli Gardner Drewry	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosemary Blieszner	Yes	No	Yes
Ben Beiter	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bruce Harper	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tyler Walters	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robin Queen	Yes	No	Yes
Rachel Holloway	Yes	No	Yes
Jan Helge Bøhn	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amy Sebring	Yes	No	Yes
Virginia Buechner-Maxwell	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kelly Oaks	Yes	No	Yes
Laurel Miner	Yes	No	Yes
Rachel Miles	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lee Learman	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tom Thompson	Abstain	No	Yes
Robert Weiss	Yes	No	Yes
LaTawnya Burleson	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frances Keene	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Noor Tasnim	Yes	Yes	Yes
Menah Pratt	Yes	No	Yes
A.K. Ward	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julie Ross	Yes	No	Yes
Evan Lavender-Smith	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ellen Banks	Yes	No	Yes
Jennifer Jones	Yes	No	Yes
Ainsley Cragin	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dwayne Edwards	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thomas Pingel	Yes	Yes	Yes
Melissa Faircloth	Yes	Yes	Yes