

University Council Minutes

March 18, 2024

3:30 PM

Creativity and Innovation District Building Multipurpose Library (Room 104) and Zoom

Present: Tim Sands (presiding), April Myers, Kim O'Rourke, Cyril Clarke, Laurel Miner for Daniel Sui, Frances Keene, Aimée Surprenant, Mary Burrows for Alan Grant, Tsai Lu Liu, Kevin Pitts, Julia Ross, Lara Khansa for Saonee Sarker, Lee Learman, Dwayne Edwards, Joe Merola, Rachel Miles for Robert Weiss, Evan Lavender-Smith, Janice Austin, Stephanie Trout, Jennifer Jones, LaTawnya Burlison, Callan Bartel, Kari Evans, Kiera Schneiderman, Shahed Sanuri, Alex Efrid, Rachel Maizel, Yohan Sequeira, Riley DeHority, Emily Tirrell, Gary Long, Nicole Pitterson, Stuart Feigenbaum, Rodney Gaines, Serena Young, Amber Robinson, Sally Shupe, Melissa Faircloth, Kelly Oaks, Amy Sebring & Kim Rhodes for Dave Close

Absent with notice: Byan Garey, Rachel Holloway, Charles Lowery, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Renee LeClair, & William Storey

Absent: Menah Pratt, Daniel Givens, Laura Belmonte, Paul Winistorfer, Tyler Walters, Paul Knox, Natalia Guerrero, Daniel Hindman, Lujean Baab, John Gray Williams, & Eric Glenn

Guests: James Bridgeforth, Lori Rose, Holli Drewry, Dee Harris, Monique Logan, Kat Nelson, Rick Sparks, Ron Fricker, Demetria Somervell, Debbie Greer, Sam Heller, Justin Lemkul, Bryanna Meredith, Brandy Morse, & Lauren Surace

Dr. Sands called the 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 February 19, 2024

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 Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2023-24B
Resolution to Approve Revised Extension Faculty Tracks

Justin Lemkul presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is an administrative cleanup to amend the description of extension faculty ranks, essentially to remove the reference to continued appointment within extension faculty only. No one has been hired at this faculty rank in over ten years, and this change will not affect any existing extension faculty with the continued appointment rank.

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2023-24C
Resolution to Form a Task Force to Study Instructor Workloads and Salaries

Justin Lemkul presented the resolution for first reading. It was brought to the Commission's attention that there is an issue of instructor salaries. Several departments have taken their own approach to studying the potential gaps in instructor salaries and differences in workloads such as service work and research tasks in addition to

a full teaching course load. This resolution will establish a task force to focus on investigating instructor salaries and all workload assignments in a systematic way across all academic departments. Data gathered by this task force will be sent to the President and the Executive Vice President and Provost.

University Council
Resolution UC 2023-24B
Resolution to Revise the University Council Constitution

Cyril Clarke presented the resolution for first reading. Provost Clarke provided some background regarding the resolution. The new system of shared governance was developed and then approved in June of 2022 by the Board of Visitors. In the new approved resolution, there was a mandate that the University Council constitution and bylaws be reviewed on a regular basis by the University Council Cabinet. This review is to identify improvements that can be made and then put forward revisions in the form of a resolution to update the constitution, which is what this resolution is doing.

There are two components within the resolution itself. The first part deals with revisions to the constitution as has been proposed in the resolution. The second part deals with the need to appoint a committee to better clarify and address the criteria for the University Mission Initiative component within the constitution.

The major changes to the constitution being proposed are as follows:

1. Revisions to streamline, at an operational level, how we move resolutions through governance.
2. Revise the membership of University Council and commissions.
3. Revision to commission charges to accurately describe the responsibility and accountability for each respective commission.

After this resolution has a second reading and vote at University Council, it will then have to be ratified by a majority of the senates before being forwarded to the president for approval and then to the Board of Visitors for final approval.

In the context of proposed revisions to the charges of the Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs and the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs in which “student well-being” would replace language about “health, safety, and quality of student-related services,” a question was raised as to whether resolutions about auxiliary services would be appropriate for shared governance. Provost Clarke replied that determination of whether a resolution pertaining to a university service is within the scope of a commission’s charge would need to be decided on a case-by-case basis, but such a determination would not be influenced by the funding source of the university service, e.g., whether it is funded in the auxiliary budget.

6. 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 minutes of the University Council Cabinet, Commissions, and Committees reporting to University Council Cabinet 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
February 12, 2024
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 9, 2024
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
December 13, 2023
February 14, 2024

- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
December 6, 2023
January 17, 2024
February 21, 2024
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
February 15, 2024
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
February 12, 2024
- Athletics Committee
February 8, 2024
- Campus Development Committee
November 7, 2023
December 5, 2023
- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
January 22, 2024
- Transportation and Parking Committee
October 10, 2023
February 13, 2024

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.