

University Council Minutes
May 5, 2025
3:30 p.m.
2420 North End Center and Zoom

Present: Tim Sands (presiding), April Myers, Don Taylor for Cyril Clarke, Amy Sebring, Laurel Miner for Daniel Sui, Menah Pratt, Frances Keene, Kim O'Rourke, Aimée Surprenant, Rachel Holloway, Tom Thompson for Mario Feruzzi, Daniel Givens, Laura Belmonte, Tsai Lu Liu, Julia Ross, Saonee Sarker, Lee Learman, Amanda Morris, Rachel Miles, Justin Lemkul, Janice Austin, Marlena Lester, Enrique Noyola, LaTawnya Burleson, Amber Hagan, Kari Evans, Alex Efird, Chloe Ebert, Aarav Parikh, Ronnie Mondal, Nicole Pitterson, Jason Malone, Rodney Gaines, Ron Meyers, Kim Loeffert, Rebecca Hester, David He, Renée LeClair, Holli Gardner Drewry, Serena Young, Sally Shupe, Donna Westfall-Rudd, Anita Jenious for Kelly Oaks, Larry Cox, II, Francisco Carvallo, and Rachel Maizel

Absent with Notice: Bryan Garey, Guru Ghosh, Evan Lavender-Smith, and Vincent Wang

Absent: Kevin Pitts, Paul Winistorfer, Tyler Walters, Paul Knox, Natalia Guerrero, Leslie Orellana, Quiyana Murphy, William Poland, Amber Robinson, and Jim Tokuhisa

Guests: Monique Logan, Kat Nelson, Lori Rose, Demetria Somervell, and Stacey Wilkerson

Dr. Sands called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Announcement of Order of the Day

Dr. Sands announced the order of the day for the meeting. Items to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the secretary at least ten days prior to the meeting date. Follow the procedures in Section 2(2) – University Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 2(2-3).

2. Announcement of review and approval of minutes of April 21, 2025

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 Faculty Affairs

CFA Resolution 2024-25H

Resolution to Codify the Faculty Handbook Reconciliation Process within the Faculty Affairs Office

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

Commission on Faculty Affairs

CFA Resolution 2024-25J

Resolution to Integrate Chapter 12 into Chapters 2 and 5 of the Faculty Handbook

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

Commission on Faculty Affairs

CFA Resolution 2024-25K

Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook to Codify Interest or Discipline-Based Faculty Organizations

Justin Lemkul 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

CGPSA Resolution 2024-25B

Resolution to Clarify Graduate Teaching Assistants', Graduate Assistants', and Graduate Research Assistants' Relationships with Students They Have Academic or Professional Supervision Over

Rachel Maizel presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded. Since the first reading, there has been an addendum to the sixth bullet point to add additional language of "before their role begins" in the following section: "In the event of a pre-existing relationship, the GTA, GA, or GRA is required to disclose the existing relationship in writing to the relevant department chair before their role begins." A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

CGPSP Resolution 2024-25C

Resolution to Update the Graduate Catalog

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

Commission on Research

COR Resolution 2024-25A

Resolution to Clarify Eligibility for Postdoctoral Associate Status

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

Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs

CUSA Resolution 2024-25B

Resolution to Amend the Undergraduate Student Senate Constitution

Aarav Parikh presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded. Since the first reading, only one change has been made in response to feedback from the Staff Senate. For the purpose of this resolution, the definition of "college" was revised to reflect the inclusion of more colleges and programs than previously listed. The updated definition states: "A USS college senator is a USS senator representing a college, part of a college, or other significant academic or academic adjacent program." This revision ensures that core senators and future positions, such as intercollege senators, are appropriately represented as college senators. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

4. 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
March 31, 2025
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
March 28, 2025
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
March 26, 2025
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
March 19, 2025
April 2, 2025

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

First name	Last name	Do you approve CFA Resolution 2024-25H?	Do you approve CFA Resolution 2024-25J?	Do you approve CFA Resolution 2024-25K?	Do you approve CGPSA Resolution 2024-25B?	Do you approve CGPSP Resolution 2024-25C?	Do you approve COR Resolution 2024-25A?	Do you approve CUSA Resolution 2024-25B?
Janice	Austin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laura	Belmonte	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes
James	Bridgeforth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LaTawnya	Burleson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Francisco	Carvallo	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Larry	Cox II	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Holli	Drewry	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chloe	Ebert	Yes	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	No Response	Yes
Alexander	Efird	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kari	Evans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rodney	Gaines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dan	Givens	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amber	Hagan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rebecca	Hester	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rachel	Holloway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anita	Jenious	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lee	Learman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Renee	LeClair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Response	Yes
Justin	Lemkul	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lu	Liu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kimberly	Loeffert	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jason	Malone	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marlena	McGlothlin Lester	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ron	Meyers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rachel	Miles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

First name	Last name	Do you approve CFA Resolution 2024-25H?	Do you approve CFA Resolution 2024-25J?	Do you approve CFA Resolution 2024-25K?	Do you approve CGPSA Resolution 2024-25B?	Do you approve CGPSP Resolution 2024-25C?	Do you approve COR Resolution 2024-25A?	Do you approve CUSA Resolution 2024-25B?
Laurel	Miner	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ronnie	Mondal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amanda	Morris	Yes	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Enrique	Noyola	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kim	O'Rourke	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aarav	Parikh	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole	Pitterson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Menah	Pratt	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julia	Ross	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saonee	Sarker	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amy	Sebring	No Response	No Response	No Response	Abstain	Yes	No Response	Yes
Sally	Shupe	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aimee	Surprenant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tommy	Thompson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donna	Westfall-Rudd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hehuang	Xie	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Serena	Young	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes	No Response	Yes	Yes