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

Present: Cyril Clarke (presiding), April Myers, Amy Sebring, Bryan Garey, Menah Pratt, Frances Keene, Kim O'Rourke, Aimée Surprenant, Jill Sible, Mike Gutter for Mario Ferruzzi, Daniel Givens, Tsai Lu Liu, Kevin Pitts, Julia Ross, Lee Learman, Paul Heilker for Rebecca Bott-Knutson, Justin Lemkul, Rachel Miles, James Hawdon, Marlena Lester, Jennifer Jones, Nicole Connors, Amber Hagan, Gabe Petry, Jasmine Boyd, Emma Roshioru, Aarav Parikh, Thomas Feely, Lindsay Ricci, Pooja Bhagawat, Gyang Chung, Taylor Peele, Katie Drinkwater Gregg, Marc Michel, Karen Schnatterly, Rodney Gaines, Kim Loeffert, Rebecca Hester, David Xie, Renée LeClair, Terri Pecora, Serena Young, Amber Robinson, Jennifer Clevenger, Ronnie Mondal, Jim Tokuhisa, and Laurel Miner for Jan Helge Bøhn

Absent with Notice: Tim Sands and Ron Meyers

Absent: Daniel Sui, Guru Ghosh, Laura Belmonte, Saskia van de Gevel, Saonee Sarker, Tyler Walters, Amanda Morris, Jennifer Johnson, Nicole Pitterson, and Clay Crumpler

Guests: Larry Cox II, Janice Austin, Kayla Dean, Ron Fricker, Rachel Gabriele, Monique Logan, Kat Nelson, Lori Rose, Demetria Somervell, Rick Sparks, and Sally Shupe

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

1. Announcement of Order of the Day

Dr. Clarke 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 October 6, 2025

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). [Note: The October 20, 2025, University Council meeting was cancelled.]

3. New Business

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
CGPSP Resolution 2025-26A
Resolution to Modify the Withdrawal Policy in the Graduate Catalog

Renée LeClair presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution recommends that the graduate withdrawal policy in the graduate catalog be revised to align with the undergraduate withdrawal policy. This proposed change will allow graduate students to request a course withdrawal through the last day of classes each semester. This update will retire Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 38, effective Spring 2026, as the revision to the graduate catalog will supersede it.

During discussion, a clarifying question was raised about whether the policy applies to professional students in Veterinary Medicine and the School of Medicine. It was confirmed that these programs maintain separate catalogs and calendars so the policy change would not apply to them. A suggestion was made to remove the term “professional” from the first “therefore, be it resolved” clause for clarity.

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
  September 29, 2025
  October 13, 2025

- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
  September 10, 2025

- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
  September 17, 2025

- Commission on Research
  September 11, 2025

- Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs
  September 12, 2025
  October 10, 2025

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  September 8, 2025
  September 22, 2025

- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
  September 22, 2025

- Transportation and Parking Committee
  September 9, 2025

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m.