

**University Council Minutes**  
**February 15, 2010**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Karen Eley Sanders, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Debra Stoudt for Sue Ott Rowlands, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Maggie Sloane, Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Tom Inzana for Robert Walters, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Terry Clements, William Huckle, Marilyn King, Maxine Lyons, Michelle McLeese, Paul Deck for Patrick Miller, Leslie O'Brien, Guy Sims, Deborah Smith, Heather Boyd, Sam Easterling, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Dave Dugas, Bob Sturges, Judy Alford, Jean Brickey, Travis Hundley, Stacey Poertner, Wyatt Sasser, Annette Bailey, Mike Parrish, Keisha Riley, Lindsay Moss, Amy Reed, Alyson Boyce, Jeff Chuang, Brandon Carroll for Nicki Field, Shane McCarty, Steven Murphy, Rebecca French, Gary Long, Tom Tucker

**Absent:** John Dooley (with notice), Alan Grant, Eileen Hitchingham, Sherwood Wilson (with notice), Carla Finkielstein, Jim Kuypers (with notice), Susanna Rinehart, Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Gene Seago, Dean Stauffer, David Vaughan (with notice), Lori Anne Kirk (with notice), Dave Shuster, Kim Beisecker, Craig Keys, Chris Ramos, Wayne Scales, Laura Freeman, Ally Hammond, Kristina Hartman

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Rohsaan Settle, Captain Joseph Albert, Kristen Houston, Adam Rubin, Ethan Reed, Al Cooper, Heidi McCoy, Ken Smith, Chris MacDonald, April Myers.

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:00 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**

Dr. Steger informed the Council that Virginia Tech is still working through the budget process in Richmond and will not know the senate version of the budget until Sunday, February 21, 2010. The cumulative reductions to Virginia Tech are approaching \$75 million of the budget, and the Governor and the House do not intend to make any additional cuts in higher education. However, the Senate has indicated that there could be additional cuts of \$150 million or more to Virginia's higher education institutions. Leaders in the House and Senate have suggested that Virginia Tech officials need to speak out in terms of the impact the additional cuts will have on the university.

**3. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 1, 2010**

Dr. Steger 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>).

**4. New Business**

**Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution 2009-10E

Resolution Requesting Jewish Student Union Membership on  
The Commission on Student Affairs

Ms. Michelle McLeese presented the resolution for first reading. McLeese asked Adam Rubin, President of the Jewish Student Union to review the resolution.

## **5. Old Business**

### **Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution 2009-10C

Resolution for Changes to the Hokie Handbook  
(Weapons Policy for Student Code of Conduct)

Ms. Michelle McLeese presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and McLeese asked Dr. Rohsaan Settle, Assistant Director for the Office of Student Conduct, to answer any questions. Dr. Spencer informed the committee that the request to change the policy did not have anything to do with flammability of ammunition, but it was changed in order to bring the weapons policy in line with other institutions by making it more comprehensive and complete. Ammunition belongs with weapons, and since weapons have been banned on campus, ammunition should be banned as well. There have been concerns expressed by students about the presence of ammunition in the residence halls. Seeing ammunition in the residence halls causes some students to feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Shane McCarty, a former residence hall advisor, informed the committee that the issue with ammunition in residence halls is about perceived safety, and this issue of perceived safety can be eliminated by storing ammunition with the weapons at the Virginia Tech Police Department.

Council then voted on the resolution and the motion passed.

### **Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution 2009-10D

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life  
(Interim Suspension Policy)

Ms. Michelle McLeese presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and McLeese asked Dr. Rohsaan Settle to answer any questions. The resolution was approved.

## **6. Report on SACS Visit**

Dr. Steger asked Dr. Daniel Wubah, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education to give a brief overview of the SACS accreditation process. Wubah informed the council that last September a SACS report was submitted and it went through an offsite review. An onsite review will be conducted in mid March. Beginning next week, there will be information sessions scheduled across campus to answer any questions or concerns. The SACS team will focus on Virginia Tech's Quality Enhancement Plan (First Year Experiences) and institutional effectiveness. After the March visit, Virginia Tech will have until the end of May to address any issues. The reaccreditation hearing has been set for December 2010. Any necessary information will be posted on the SACS website.

## **7. Presentation**

Mr. Brandon Carroll, President of the Student Government Association gave a presentation on the following four topics:

- Official 24/7 study facility in Torgersen Hall on the first floor
- Bus with instantaneous GPS
- Intergroup dialogue for Area 6 credit
- Restructuring governance and student organization

## **8. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission 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 Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council By-laws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
January 13, 2010
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
November 16, 2009  
December 7, 2009
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
December 2, 2009  
January 20, 2010
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
November 30, 2009  
January 25, 2010

## **9. For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
December 3, 2009

## **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:53 p.m.