

University Council Minutes
September 20, 2010
3:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Jill Sible for Lay Nam Chang, John Browder for Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Elizabeth Flanagan, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, William Lewis, Mark McNamee, Natalie Hart for Kim O'Rourke, Rachel Holloway for Sue Ott Rowlands, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Kay Hunnings for Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Robert Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Dean Stauffer for Paul Winistorfer, Wanda Dean for Daniel Wubah, Jan Helge Bøhn, Janet Rankin for Carolyn Copenheaver, Jesus de la Garza, Ross Edmonds, Frances Keene, Nathan Lavinka, Steve McMullin, Leslie O'Brien, Deborah Smith, Sue Teel, Bryan Cloyd, Jim Kuypers, Susanna Rinehart, Eric Vance, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Dave Dugas, François Elvinger for Marion Ehrich, Debra Salvador, Bob Sturges, Judy Alford, Jean Brickey, Dan Cook, Teresa Lyons, Stacey Poertner, Dave Shuster, Christal Bacon, Justin Graves, Karen Poff, Keisha Riley, Patrick Tomlin, Amanda Cronin, Michelle McLeese, Mojtaba Taiebat, Scott Bennett, Jeff Chuang, Bo Hart, Greer Kelly, Emily Wilkinson, Mike Ellerbrock, Deepu George, Maxine Lyons, Shane McCarty

Absent John Dooley (with notice), Eileen Hitchingham, Karen Jones, Tom Tillar, Dini Miller, Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Tom Hammett, David Vaughan, Lori Anne Kirk (with notice), Wayne Scales, Tricia Smith, Charles Petty

Guests: Jack Finney, 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 of approval and posting of minutes of May 3, 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>).

3. New Business

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2010-11A

Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education

Dr. Steve McMullin presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. McMullin introduced Dr. Rachel Holloway to answer any questions. Dr. Holloway informed the Council that this resolution is to correct an administrative oversight, and there are no students currently enrolled in the program.

4. Commission Chair Reports

Dr. Steger asked the Commission chairs to present briefly their goals for the academic year.

1. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Ms. Frances Keene, Chair
 - a. Follow up on items from the A/P Faculty Task Force including participation and information sharing with the AP Compensation Advisory Committee
 - b. Schedule panel discussions with university leadership – Dr. Ed Spencer is tentatively set for November

- c. Presentation of a resolution to do away with the requirement of doing yearly faculty re-appointment letters and adjusting the Faculty Handbook accordingly
 - d. Examine ways in which ethics matters are handled amongst A/P faculty and propose new procedures
2. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Mr. Ross Edmonds, Chair
 - a. Address wording in one specific paragraph of Policy 1025 that was an issue with Staff Senate and the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
 - b. Look into the notice sent out annually regarding holiday observance and decoration
 - c. Review the status of the annual Diversity Summit
 - d. Review the Diversity Strategic Plan and the Commission on Equal Opportunity's charge to identify goals which will allow the Commission to move the Diversity Strategic Plan forward
3. Commission on Faculty Affairs – Ms. Deborah Smith, Chair
 - a. Clarifications to research leave policies
 - b. Review of issues around consulting and conflict of interest
 - c. Periodic updates on progress on evaluation of teaching issues (student, peer, & self evaluations)
 - d. Review the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey results
 - e. Updates on Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute
 - f. Review promotion and continued appointments process for the library and extension faculty
4. Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Janet Rankin
 - a. Implementation of electronic approval on forms for the Graduate School
 - b. Examine the possibility for a faculty member to give a failing grade to a student for thesis or dissertation credits taken
 - c. Encourage and facilitate the number of Interdisciplinary graduate education programs on campus (programs that would cross departments and colleges and allow students to have multiple or dual areas of specialization)
 - d. Consider policy on anti-bullying (focus on faculty bullying of graduate students and graduate students bullying other students)
 - e. Inventory and inclusion of ethics and scholarly integrity within graduate education
5. Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Dr. Jan Helge Bøhn, Chair
 - a. Continue to discuss the concept of engaged scholarship with a focus on the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
 - b. Look at balancing the commission's focus on outreach by increasing attention to international affairs
 - c. Examine combining the domains of outreach and international affairs by focusing on international engagement
6. Commission on Research – Dr. Jesus de la Garza, Chair
 - a. Realignment of University Research Centers
 - b. Special Research Faculty Task Force
 - c. Ongoing review of Institutes
 - d. Ongoing review of Institutes' directors
 - e. Update research policies
7. Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – Ms. Sue Teel, Chair
 - a. Improved Communication
 - Staff Emeritus status
 - Winter closing policy

- Is the current system working for employees who do not have access to computers or who have difficulties reading the communications?
 - b. Consider review parking permit fee structure based on percentage of salary of individual
 - c. Review employee frustration with lack of accessibility to training opportunities
8. Commission on Student Affairs – Mr. Nathan Lavinka, Chair
- a. Develop ways to communicate to the Virginia Tech Community what the Commission on Student Affairs does
 - Created the CSA Blog (Vtcsa.wordpress.com)
 - b. Discuss resolutions that reflect the current needs of Virginia Tech students
 - c. Examine better relationship between the Educational Media Company at Virginia Tech and the Commission on Student Affairs
 - d. Review the possibility of a CSA subcommittee with the Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer that will provide students the opportunity to give input about tuition and fees
 - e. Review student fee allocations
 - f. Review capital plans pertaining to student life facilities
 - g. Review the parking situation (past, present, and future)
9. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies– Dr. Steve McMullin, Chair
- a. Review of academic policies
 - How many credits students can take on pass/fail basis
 - How many times can a student repeat a failed course
 - b. Review of academic calendar
 - c. Develop an electronic tracking system for course approvals and check sheet proposals
 - d. Develop a standard format for check sheets
 - e. Development of new electronic approval processes similar to the Graduate School
10. Commission on University Support – Ms. Leslie O'Brien, Chair
- a. Consideration of dissolving or suspending the Commission on University Support

5. Announcements

- The 3% bonus is still intact for December. The University pays 60% of the bonus. Dean DePauw announced that qualified graduate assistants will also receive the bonus.
- The Governor's Commission on Higher Education is meeting and the draft reports are being prepared. The Commission is working hard to make sure the outcome is beneficial.
- Dr. Ed Spencer informed the Council that the student move-in went very well especially with the help of Hokie Helpers.
- Bo Hart announced that academic advising is one of the student body's main issues.
- Michelle McLeese announced that the Graduate Professional School Fair will be held on September 27, 2010.
- Dr. Steger introduced Dr. William Lewis as the new Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion.

6. 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
May 12, 2010

- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
April 19, 2010
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
April 23, 2010
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
April 21, 2010
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
April 8, 2010
May 6, 2010
- Commission on Research
April 14, 2010
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
May 25, 2010
- Commission on Student Affairs
April 22, 2010
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
April 26, 2010
- Commission on University Support
April 15, 2010

7. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
April 22, 2010
May 27, 2010

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m.