

University Council Minutes
February 1, 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, Janet Rankin for Karen DePauw, Karen Eley Sanders, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Kim O'Rourke, Debra Stoudt for Sue Ott Rowlands, Gerhardt Schurig, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Maggie Sloane, Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Robert Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Terry Clements, Carla Finkielstein, William Huckle, Marilyn King, Michelle McLeese, Patrick Miller, Guy Sims, Deborah Smith, Sam Easterling, Jim Kuypers, Susanna Rinehart, Jean Brickey, Travis Hundley, Lori Anne Kirk, Stacey Poertner, Wyatt Sasser, Dave Shuster, Keisha Riley, Laura Freeman, Lindsay Moss, Alyson Boyce, Shane McCarty, Steven Murphy, Gary Long, Tom Tucker

Absent: John Dooley (with notice), Alan Grant, Mark McNamee (with notice), Maxine Lyons (with notice), Leslie O'Brien (with notice), Heather Boyd (with notice), Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Dave Dugas, Gene Seago, Dean Stauffer, Bob Sturges, David Vaughan, Judy Alford (with notice), Annette Bailey, Kim Beisecker, Craig Keys, Mike Parrish (with notice), Chris Ramos, Wayne Scales, Amy Reed, Jeff Chuang, Nicki Field, Ally Hammond, Rebecca French, Kristina Hartman

Guests: Pat Hyer, Rohsaan Settle, Captain Joseph Albert, Justin Curtiss, Susanna Ratcliffe, Nicholas Quenga, Eric Higgins, Chad Stachowiak, Timor Abu-Jaber, Patrick MacCormac, Ethan Reed, Tyler Stewart, Alex Barker, Benjamin Whitehouse, Ellen Plummer, Bev Watford, Jill Sible, Al Cooper, April Myers.

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Announcement

Dr. Steger informed the Council that the budget is still unresolved. Stimulus money has been switched out for general fund money. This was done because there is a stipulation with the stimulus money package that states there is maintenance of effort requirement and they cannot cut money below what 2006 was at. Part of the stimulus money has been moved to K-12. There will only be a one-year budget this time because the real problem will be next year when the stimulus money is gone. A two-year budget will be developed at that time. Virginia Tech has a plan to deal with the circumstances for now as long as they do not change. Virginia Tech is working very hard to put together enough resources to give a one to two percent salary increase, but this has not been confirmed.

2. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

3. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 7, 2009

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 2009-10C

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

Ms. Michelle McLeese presented the resolution for first reading. McLeese asked Dr. Rohsaan Settle, Assistant Director for the Office of Student Conduct, to give background information on the resolution. This is a revised resolution from the one that was brought forth last year. This resolution outlines that ammunition is not allowed in the residence halls, defines what ammunition is, clarifies who grants exceptions to the policy, and clarifies the weapons storage program. Dr. Settle indicated that the Commission on Student Affairs has discussed this issue and is willing to amend the resolution to remove airsoft and paintball ammunition so that they can be stored in residence halls. The resolution also adds stun weapons to the list of banned weapons.

During the discussion, it was noted that part of the reason for banning ammunition in the residence halls was that it poses a hazard in the event of a fire and several students disputed the validity of that assertion. Captain Joseph Albert indicated that if the resolution passes, the police department will determine how and where the ammunition will be stored that will best suit the needs of everyone.

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 first reading. McLeese asked Dr. Rohsaan Settle to give background information on the resolution.

5. Old Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2009-10B

Resolution for Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs

Dr. Patrick Miller presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded. Dr. Carla Finkelstein proposed a friendly amendment to change the minimum GPA from 3.5 to 3.3. Dr. Miller accepted the friendly amendment. During the discussion, it was suggested that the bar should be set even higher than 3.5 because more should be expected from students. However, it was noted that each department has the ability to set its own minimum GPA.

A motion was then made to amend the minimum GPA back to 3.5. The motion to amend was seconded. Dr. Finkelstein informed the council that the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies requested a minimum requirement of a 3.3 GPA that will allow a student to apply, but then each department will be able to set their own minimum requirements to enter the program. The motion to approve the amendment was defeated.

Council then voted on the resolution with the friendly amendment changing the minimum GPA to 3.3; the motion passed.

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
December 9, 2009
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
November 13, 2009
December 11, 2009
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
November 18, 2009
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
November 12, 2009
December 10, 2009
- Commission on Research
October 14, 2009
November 11, 2009
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
October 27, 2009
November 24, 2009
- Commission on Student Affairs
November 19, 2009
December 3, 2009
- Commission on University Support
November 19, 2009

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:41 p.m.