

University Council Minutes
March 30, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Donald Leo for Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, J. Michael Kelly, Susan Sumner for Loke Kok, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Fred Piercy for Sue Ott Rowlands, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Tom Inzana for Robert Walters, Linda Woodard for Sherwood Wilson, Daniel Wubah, Paul Deck, William Huckle, Marilyn King for Frances Keene, Gary Long, Maxine Lyons, Leslie O'Brien for Bradley Scott, Jane Wemhoener, Sam Easterling, Ken Eriksson, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Judy Alford, Travis Hundley, Shelly Key, Wyatt Sasser, Annette Bailey, Kim Beisecker, , Carson Byrd, Tamim Younos, Joe McFadden, Lindsay Moss, Ali Yeilaghi-Tamijani, Lauren Creasy, Rachel Goodwin, Tom Tucker

Absent: John Dooley (with notice), Kevin McDonald, Ingrid Ngai, Daphne Rainey-Wittich, Diane Zahm, Bob Denton (with notice), Sam Riley, Susanna Rinehart, Lewis Wasserman, Bill Galloway, Karen Inzana, Gene Seago, Bob Sturges, David Vaughan (with notice), Shep Zedaker, Lori Anne Kirk (with notice), Teresa Lyons, Mary Alice Schaeffer, Lauren Davis, Mike Parrish, Wayne Scales, Thomas Hogdahl, Kelsie Lieberman, Kolt Risser, Rianka Urbina, Linsey Barker, Hardus Odendaal, Arlane Gordon-Bray

Guests: Denny Cochrane, Mike Coleman, Angie DeSoto, Kristina Hartman, Pat Hyer, Sara Murrill, 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 March 2, 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>).

3. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2008-09B

Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs

Dr. Paul Deck presented the resolution for first reading. There is a need to establish a uniform policy umbrella to handle the accelerated undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

It was mentioned that the changes in the resolution make the program more restrictive and less attractive to high caliber undergraduate students which may result in a decline of the program usage. It was suggested to limit the number of 4000-level courses to six credits with no additional restrictions. It was also mentioned that the undergraduate student is being asked to make an irrevocable decision on which track (professional or research) they wish to take too early in their academic career.

Commission on Student Affairs

Resolution 2008-09A

Resolution Amending the Constitution of the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Joe McFadden presented the resolution for first reading. The main points of the resolution are:

- General procedure updates
- Membership will be free of cost
- The addition of the Graduate and Professional School Day chair
- The establishment of the Karen DePauw Graduate Fund Annual Review Committee
- Removal of the GSA Budget Board
- The addition of the GSA Executive Assistant
- The addition of the GSA Historian

Commission on University Support

Resolution 2008-09C

The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution

Ms. Leslie O'Brien presented the resolution for first reading. Ms. O'Brien asked Mr. Mike Coleman, Chair of the Energy and Sustainability Committee, to give background information and answer any questions about the resolution. In April 2008, Dr. Steger charged the Energy and Sustainability Committee with drafting a Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment.

Dr. Steger encouraged everyone to read the Virginia Tech Climate Commitment and Sustainability plan closely. The President then asked Dr. Mark McNamee to look at implementation and functionality of the virtual Virginia Tech School of Sustainability. He also requested the Energy and Sustainability Committee work with Mr. Dwight Shelton to look at the benefits versus costs of the key proposals and the target return on investment (ROI), and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

4. Old Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2008-09A

Defending Student Status for Qualified Graduate Students

Dr. Paul Deck presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously.

5. Announcement

Dr. Steger announced that the final budget will be announced after the special session of the the General Assembly which will reconvene on April 8, 2009.

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
February 18, 2009
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 13, 2009
February 27, 2009
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
January 21, 2009
February 4, 2009
- Commission on Research
February 11, 2009
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
January 20, 2009
February 17, 2009
- Commission on Student Affairs
February 5, 2009
February 19, 2009
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
February 9, 2009
- Commission on University Support
February 19, 2009

7. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
January 22, 2009

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m.