

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2011

3:00 p.m.

1045 Pamplin Hall

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda Dr. Mark McNamee
  
2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 17, 2011 Dr. Mark McNamee  

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web.
  
3. New Business Dr. Mark McNamee  

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Ms. Amy Hogan  
Resolution 2011-12A  
Resolution to Approve Revisions to University Policy 4060

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Dr. Robin Panneton  
Resolution 2011-12B  
Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Dr. Robin Panneton  
Resolution 2011-12C  
Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education
  
4. Old Business Dr. Mark McNamee  

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Dr. Robin Panneton  
Resolution 2011-12A  
Resolution to Revise the Undergraduate Academic Eligibility Policy  
(Revision to PPM #191)
  
5. Announcement of acceptance and posting of Commission Minutes Dr. Mark McNamee  

These minutes have been accepted for filing by electronic vote and will be posted on the University web. 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  
October 12, 2011

Commission on Faculty Affairs  
September 23, 2011  
October 7, 2011

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
October 5, 2011

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
September 8, 2011

Commission on Research  
September 14, 2011

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs  
October 25, 2011

Commission on Student Affairs  
October 13, 2011  
October 27, 2011

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
October 10, 2011

6. **For Information Only**

Dr. Mark McNamee

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
September 29, 2011

7. **Adjournment**

Dr. Mark McNamee

**University Council Minutes**  
**November 14, 2011**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (presiding), Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Martin Daniel for Alan Grant, Jennifer Hodgson, Karen Jones, William Lewis, Kim O'Rourke, Rachel Holloway for Sue Ott Rowlands, Lisa Wilkes for Dwight Shelton, Kay Hunnings for Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Bill Knocke for Robert Walters, Leslie O'Brien for Tyler Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Sandy Bass, Amy Hogan, Sarah Karpanty, Meghan Kuhn, Gary Long, Robin Panneton, Victoria Soghomonian, Sue Teel, James Tokuhisa, Randolph Wynne, Jim Kuypers, Joe Merola, Helene Renard, Susanna Rinehart, Yannis Stivachtis, Eric Vance, Eugene Brown, Sam Riley, Eric Wiseman, Dan Cook, Teresa Lyons, Jen Mirabella, Stacey Poertner, Dave Shuster, Amy Tunison, Karen Poff, Patricia Smith, Swetha Kumar, Shree Narayanan, Corbin Dimeglio, Caroline Gimenez, Emily Schaefer, Adam Smith, Emily Wilkinson, Matt Banfield, Michelle McLeese, Bruce Pencek

**Absent** Charles Steger (with notice), Richard Benson, Jack Davis, John Dooley (with notice), Bryan Cloyd, Mike Denbow (with notice), Dave Dugas, Marion Ehrich (with notice), Debra Salvador (with notice), Leigh Williams (with notice), Allison Rubio, Mark Cartwright (with notice), Justin Graves (with notice), Lauren Heming, Tonya Smith-Jackson (with notice), Patrick Tomlin, Thomas Carl Long, Tyler Campbell, Maxine Lyons

**Guests:** Kevin Edgar, Jack Finney, Barry Goodell, Natalie Hart, April Myers, Ellen Plummer, Kayla Smith, Dean Stauffer, Dan Thorp

Dr. McNamee 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 October 17, 2011**

Dr. McNamee 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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CAPFA 2011-12A

Resolution to Approve Revisions to University Policy 4060

Ms. Amy Hogan presented the resolution for first reading. Ms. Hogan stated that this resolution would extend the existing policy to require conviction checks on all non-student full-time, part-time, and temporary/wage positions which will include all administrative and professional (AP) faculty and teaching and research (T&R) faculty. Conviction checks are currently required in most administrative areas for AP faculty, staff, and wage positions. There was concern that the resolution itself had not been reviewed by the Commission on Faculty Affairs and Faculty Senate before being presented at University Council. There were information sessions provided to these two bodies, but the resolution was not presented. Ms. Hogan indicated that she will get the resolution to the chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs for review prior to the next University Council meeting. The conviction check results will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and relevance to the job and how recent any convictions are will be factors taken into consideration by the respective hiring authority.

## **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2011-12B

Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials

Dr. Robin Panneton presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Panneton indicated that the current department name no longer reflects the discipline, mission, or faculty expertise of the department. There has been a paradigm shift in the wood science and forest products discipline over the last fifteen years. The department is working with other naturally derived products in addition to wood. Federal agencies and other opportunities for federal funding are now pushing more toward words like sustainability and biomaterials, and the department would be at a disadvantage if it continues with the current department name.

Dean Winistorfer stated that in the last two years, two of the four academic departments in the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) have been renamed as part of a comprehensive plan for the college's future. The National Science Foundation uses the term "biomaterials" to describe what this department does. The college first proposed this name change in February 2011. Dean Winistorfer has met with all stakeholders involved to answer questions and address any concerns about the name change. This department was formally established in 1979 and is considered the leading program of its kind in the United States. The department wants to continue to lead and evolve, and the name change would help achieve this goal.

Dean Winistorfer indicated that there have been questions raised as to why use the term sustainable instead of renewable. The ultimate goal is sustainability and renewable is just one part of that goal. Dean Winistorfer encouraged everyone to go to [www.woodscience.vt.edu](http://www.woodscience.vt.edu) to learn more about how the department sees itself. Another concern was raised that biomaterials is a broad word. Martin Daniel spoke on behalf of Dean Grant. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) already has faculty engaged in the arena of biomaterials. Dean Winistorfer indicated that agricultural programs around the country use the term bio-based materials. Dean Winistorfer stated that the department is moving beyond traditional wood products and into the arena of alternative and other cellulosic materials for the creation of new materials. Dean Winistorfer then stated that the name change should not dilute or take away from any other department that works with biomaterials. It was indicated that the term biomaterials is used broadly by the public and that the CNRE is adopting that terminology. Moreover, currently there are approximately 600 students admitted to Virginia Tech every fall who are not accepted into a STEM-oriented discipline that they desire. The CNRE is trying to create a stronger STEM-oriented discipline in sustainable biomaterials to give students an alternative programs to which they can apply.

Dr. Chang indicated that the reaction from the department heads in the College of Science (COS) is one of concern. Many departments in the COS work in sustainable biomaterials such as the Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute (MII). Dean Winistorfer indicated that CNRE has had discussions and worked with the MII faculty. Dean Winistorfer stated that any confusion a student has about the different biomaterial programs should be eliminated once he or she reviews the program.

Dean DePauw clarified for the Council that this resolution also was approved by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies. This CGS&P approval will be added to the resolution header when it is brought back for the second reading on December 5, 2011.

## **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2011-12C

Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education.

Dr. Robin Panneton presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Panneton informed the Council members that this policy is to mirror a similar policy in the Graduate School. Untaught courses that appear in the undergraduate catalog as well as the Curriculum for Liberal Education misrepresent the curriculum to students. Every fall, the Registrar's office will determine the classes that have not been taught in the last five years and will remove them for the subsequent year from the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education with the approval of department heads.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2011-12A

Resolution to Revise the Undergraduate Academic Eligibility Policy  
(Revision to PPM #191)

Dr. Robin Panneton presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. A motion was then made and seconded to amend the second sentence of the "Therefore, be it resolved" clause to read: "Students on academic warning will be required to consult with the appropriate Undergraduate Academic Dean and may be required to sign an academic contract acknowledging that their performance is not meeting University standards and stating what actions they are committed to taking to improve performance." The motion to amend the resolution passed. Council then voted on the resolution as amended, and it passed.

#### **5. Announcement of Acceptance and Posting of Commission Minutes**

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October 10, 2011

#### **6. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
September 29, 2011

#### **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 p.m.