

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 17, 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 3, 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 Graduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Victoria Soghomonian  
Resolution 2011-12C  
Resolution to Discontinue the Executive Masters in Information Security Assurance

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Robin Panneton  
Resolution 2011-12A  
Resolution to Revise the Undergraduate Academic Eligibility Policy  
(Revision to PPM #191)
  
4. **Old Business** Dr. Mark McNamee  

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Polices** Dr. Victoria Soghomonian  
Resolution 2011-12A  
Resolution to Approve the Master of Science Degree/Master of Engineering Degree in Nuclear Engineering

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Polices** Dr. Victoria Soghomonian  
Resolution 2011-12B  
Resolution to Approve the Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering
  
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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
September 12, 2011  
September 26, 2011

Commission on Faculty Affairs  
September 9, 2011

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
September 21, 2011

Commission on Student Affairs  
September 29, 2011

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
September 12, 2011  
September 26, 2011

6. For Information Only

Dr. Mark McNamee

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
September 1, 2011

7. Adjournment

Dr. Mark McNamee

**University Council Minutes**  
**October 17, 2011**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Bob Schubert for Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Elizabeth Flanagan, Alan Grant, Jennifer Hodgson, Karen Jones, William Lewis, Natalie Hart for Kim O'Rourke, Rachel Holloway for Sue Ott Rowlands, Lisa Wilkes for Dwight Shelton, Kay Hunnings for Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Tyler Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Sandy Bass, Jack Finney for Sarah Karpanty, Meghan Kuhn, Gary Long, Robin Panneton, Victoria Soghomonian, Sue Teel, James Tokuhisa, Bill Knocke for Randolph Wynne, Bryan Cloyd, Joe Merola, Helene Renard, Susanna Rinehart, Jennifer Hanratty for Yannis Stivachtis, Eric Vance, Bob Sturges for Eugene Brown, Sam Riley, Leigh Williams, Stacey Poertner, Amy Tunison, Mark Cartwright, Justin Graves, Karen Poff, Tonya Smith-Jackson, Patrick Tomlin, Swetha Kumar, Shree Nair, Tyler Campbell, Caroline Gimenez, Emily Schaefer, Emily Wilkinson, Matt Banfield, Michelle McLeese, Bruce Pencek

**Absent** Charles Steger (with notice), Ed Spencer, Robert Walters, Amy Hogan, Jim Kuypers (with notice), Mike Denbow (with notice), Dave Dugas, Marion Ehrich (with notice), Debra Salvador (with notice), Eric Wiseman, Dan Cook (with notice), Teresa Lyons, Jen Mirabella (with notice), Allison Rubio, Dave Shuster, Lauren Heming, Patricia Smith, Thomas Carl Long, Corbin Dimeglio, Adam Smith, Maxine Lyons (with notice)

**Guests:** April Myers, Todd Ogle, Mark Pierson, Ellen Plummer

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 3, 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 Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2011-12C

Resolution to Discontinue the Executive Masters in Information Security Assurance

Dr. Victoria Soghomonian made a motion for first reading and action (commonly referred to as "waiver of first reading"). Dr. McNamee explained that in order to waive a first reading, an affirmative vote of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the membership present is required. Dr. McNamee then indicated that the reason for the waiver of the first reading of this resolution is it requires approval by the Board of Visitors and must be approved at this meeting in order to meet the deadline for submission of board materials. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Soghomonian informed the Council that there are no students currently enrolled in the Executive Masters in Information Security Assurance nor are there any faculty engaged in this program of study. Therefore it makes logical sense to discontinue this program.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. The motion passed.

## **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 first reading. Dr. Panneton introduced Dr. Rachel Holloway to give background and answer any questions about the resolution. Dr. Holloway informed the Council that there are a number of students in academic trouble who would benefit from earlier intervention than provided for under the current policy. The current Probation/Suspension Policy states that a student goes into academic warning when his or her cumulative GPA drops below a 2.0. This resolution adds an academic warning category that will be imposed when a student maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.0 but the term GPA falls below a 2.0. A term GPA below 2.0 may signal academic difficulty before the cumulative GPA drops below 2.0. A student can disengage from academic life for four semesters before the current academic eligibility policy prompts an official response. The category of academic warning is meant to be an advising tool and will not be notated on the transcript. Academic warning will authorize early intervention where a contract with the student can be established or registration can be blocked. Dr. Dooley suggested that the word "may" should be changed to the word "will" in the sentence under "Therefore, Be it Resolved," which reads: "Students on academic warning may be required to consult with the appropriate Undergraduate Academic Dean..." Dr. Holloway informed the Council that the recommendation will be taken back to the Commission for consideration.

## **4. Old Business**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2011-12A

Resolution to Approve the Master of Science Degree/Master of Engineering Degree in Nuclear Engineering

Dr. Victoria Soghomonian presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2011-12B

Resolution to Approve the Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering

Dr. Victoria Soghomonian presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

## **5. 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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
September 12, 2011  
September 26, 2011
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
September 9, 2011
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
September 21, 2011
- Commission on Student Affairs  
September 29, 2011

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
September 12, 2011  
September 26, 2011

## **6. Discussion**

Dr. Bill Knocke, on behalf of the Commission on Research, made a formal expression of concern regarding the impact of the proposed Multi-Modal Transport Facility (MMTF). The Commission on Research unanimously voted at its October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to formally express its concern regarding the proposed location of the MMTF near multiple College of Science buildings. The Commission also expressed concerns on attempting to engineer a solution for potential issues of air quality once the site is selected.

Dr. Lay Nam Chang stated that the departments in the College of Science that may be potentially impacted by the MMTF site location house sensitive instruments that are used for critical research and training of undergraduates. The concern is how these instruments may potentially be affected by the bus fumes. One additional concern is the difficulty of recruiting new faculty with research facilities located next to the MMTF.

Dr. Sherwood Wilson informed the Council that it is early in the process for the MMTF, and that this is actually a Town of Blacksburg project in conjunction with Virginia Tech. Dr. Wilson indicated that he has asked consultants from the Town of Blacksburg to meet with the appropriate people in the College of Science to get input. Dr. Wilson also indicated that one of the requirements of the Board of Visitors is to have environmental issues reviewed because of proximity of the proposed site to Derring Hall.

## **7. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
September 1, 2011

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:29 p.m.