

**University Council Minutes**  
**September 19, 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Sheryl Ball for Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, James Blair for Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Don Kenney for Eileen Hitchingham, James Hyatt, Mike Kelly, Jack Davis for Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Mark McNamee, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Craig Nessler for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Kevin McDonald, Judy Alford, Carolyn Rude for Scott Case, Bob Hendricks, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Ken Eriksson for Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kathleen Jones, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Donna Hamm, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Jamie Kalista, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Jennifer Jessie

**Absent:** Erv Blythe, John Dooley, Ben Dixon, Richard Ashley, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Delbert Jones, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Akilah Chopfield, David Jones, Navin Manjooran

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Teresa Wright

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 as presented. The motion carried.

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of May 2, 2005**

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>).

Dr. Steger introduced Zenobia Hikes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Kevin McDonald, Director of the Office for Equal Opportunity; and Richard Benson, Dean of the College of Engineering.

**3. 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 A/P Faculty Affairs  
April 21, 2005
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
April 28, 2005  
May 26, 2005

- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
April 25, 2005  
May 9, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
April 14, 2005  
May 5, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs  
April 7, 2005  
April 21, 2005

#### **4. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
April 21, 2005  
June 23, 2005

#### **5. Commission Chair Reports**

Dr. Steger asked each Commission chairperson to present briefly their goals for the upcoming year.

##### 1. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Joan Moore, Chair

CAPFA convened its first meeting on September 6, 2005, to discuss agendas and plans for the year. The main focus was to conduct a survey of all A/P faculty to learn what their interests and concerns are. Several major areas of concern were:

- a) Consistency of evaluations and feedback
- b) Comparable salaries
- c) Development
- d) Lack of advancement opportunities
- e) Recognition in university governance.

A committee was formed and has met to develop the survey and present it to the Commission at the next meeting. The information from the survey will allow the Commission to develop goals and agenda items for the year.

##### 2. Commission on Classified Staff Affairs – Judy Alford, Chair

- a) Publicity/awareness - The commission will work closely with Staff Senate in order to emphasize the importance of staff participation in shared governance.
- b) Staff development - The commission will work closely with Human Resources to provide input on staff training and professional development needs, promote support for staff development and publicize programs.
- c) Promote alternate transportation, such as carpooling, in order to conserve fuel and save the environment. CCSA will work with the Vice President for Business Affairs and the Director of Fleet Services on this goal.
- d) Town Hall meetings - The commission will work closely with Staff Senate to sponsor and promote town hall meetings in order to provide up-to-date

information and gain staff input on the Higher Education Restructuring Act and other issues of importance to staff.

- e) Staff Survey - The commission will work closely with the Staff Senate in assessing the needs of staff articulated through the staff survey and provide any assistance and guidance as needed.
3. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Ray Plaza, Chair
    - a. Follow-up to Lee Hall Recommendations
    - b. Virginia Tech Principles of Community
    - c. Climate for LGBTQIA community
    - d. Climate for ADA issues
    - e. Exit survey data – tangible items related to specific policies
    - f. Pipeline initiatives
    - g. Diversity Strategic Plan – revisions/shaping
    - h. Diversity committees – delineation of relationship with CEO
  4. Commission on Faculty Affairs – Kerry Redican, Chair
    - a. Research Assignments (Faculty Handbook Section 2.15.3)
      - Language would be revised to make it less restrictive (elimination of quotas).
    - b. Professors of Practice
      - Dialog focusing on the meaning of “Professors of Practice”
    - c. Modified Duties
      - Reduction of teaching assignment with central funding for hire-behinds for faculty members with extraordinary dependent care responsibilities.
    - d. Stopping the tenure clock
      - Revision of language in Faculty Handbook to include issues other than family circumstances
    - e. Research-extended appointments
      - Creation of 10-, 11-, and 12-month appointments for A/Y faculty members with sponsored activity during the summer. This will be addressed with the Commission on Research.
    - f. Part-time tenure track appointments
  5. Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Carolyn Rude for Scott Case
    - a. Offering advice on quality advising and mentoring (eAdvising and eMentoring) for distance students. Assessing the quality of those distance students.
    - b. Expanded opportunities through Transformative Graduate Education (TGE) and the Graduate Life Center (GLC)
    - c. Inclusion of Principles of Community throughout graduate education
    - d. Review and approval of new and extended graduate degrees identified through the Institutional Plan for new Graduate Degrees (IPGD) Institutional plan for graduate education
    - e. Review and approval process for graduate degrees
    - f. Graduate program review process and implementation plan
    - g. Recruitment and retention issues
    - h. Impact of *Chartered University Initiative* on graduate education
    - i. Health Insurance for graduate students
    - j. Nine vs. twelve-month pay for teaching assistants
    - k. Policy and procedures review including:

- Residency requirements for doctoral students
- Pass/fail credits for research hours
- Quality assessment for graduate courses delivered on-line
- Withdraw and drop policies
- Enrollment and assistantship appointments

6. Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Ken Eriksson, Vice Chair

- a. Conduct a university-wide event called OutreachNOW on September 28 to raise awareness of the synergies between the research agendas and the outreach agendas of faculty members.
- b. An analysis of the results of the conference via a web survey and evaluation will provide information for the next steps, which will entail finding additional ways in which the commission can encourage P&T committees to implement the new P&T guidelines in their deliberations.
- c. Ralph Byers will be addressing the Commission about the impact on outreach of the Restructuring of Higher Education legislation.

7. Commission on Research – Bob Hendricks, Chair

- a. Research space
- b. IBPHS and ICTAS charters
- c. Center reviews – reexamine procedures; selected center reviews; how reviews are done
- d. Completion of revision and consolidation of policies on centers.

8. Commission on Student Affairs – Jory Zmuda Ruscio, Chair

- a. Campus Climate
  - Race
  - Sexual orientation
  - Student Status
- b. UCSO accountability
  - POC integration – Budget Board Funding
  - E-mail to faculty advisors
- c. Faculty Advisors
  - Training, and address the lack of training
- d. Principles of Community
  - Sub-committee
  - Handbook suggestions
  - Community of Hokies – New Student Orientation Program
- e. Alcohol-related issues
  - Posters around campus
  - Alternative Activities
  - College Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center
- f. Gym facilities
- g. Honor system & faculty relations
- h. Incentives for residence hall student volunteers
- i. Better integrating the Cranwell Center community into the campus community
- j. Traffic
- k. Student status on VT People Finder during summer
- l. Football season tickets
- m. Parking

9. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Bob Wheeler, Chair

- a. Review of current undergraduate research initiatives
- b. Examine graduation and retention rates for undergraduate students

10. Commission on University Support – Kurt Krause, Chair

- a. The Disaster Resistant University project
- b. Implementation of Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy

**6. Discussion**

Dr. Steger welcomed the members to a new academic year. He invited members to propose topics for information sessions. He noted that the university strategic plan and campus master plan are being updated and could be possible topics.

Dr. McNamee reported that he had met recently with the LGBTA student group and faculty/staff caucus and administrators regarding the LGBTA's concerns about harassment. They defined the scope of the concerns and will develop strategies to be proactive. They will also be looking at best practices used elsewhere.

Dr. Steger announced that the Board of Visitors would be having a special meeting on September 24 to review and approve six-year enrollment, academic, and financial plans that are required by the Restructuring Act to be submitted to SCHEV by October 1. To pre-empt concerns about what may be reported in the media subsequently about projected tuition figures, he explained that with regard to the financial plan, the university was required to provide two funding scenarios including the resultant impact on tuition. The "New General Fund Scenario" assumes a split between General Fund support (at 44 percent) and tuition revenues. In the "No New General Fund (worst-case) Scenario," there would be no new General Fund support for either the Educational and General programs or student financial assistance, which necessarily would cause tuition to increase significantly. Neither scenario is likely; the reality will probably be somewhere in between.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**October 10 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (Presiding), Ed Henneke for Richard Benson, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Ed Lener for Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Mike Kelly, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Kevin McDonald, Judy Alford, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Tom Walker for Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Vinod Lohani for Richard Goff, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Mark Anderson, Jan Helge Bohn for Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooan

**Absent:** Erv Blythe (with notice) Erv Blythe (with notice), Brad Fenwick, Tom Tillar, Scott Case (with notice), Richard Ashley, Jack Cranford (with notice), Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Chris Thomas, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm, David Jones, Stephen Kalista (with notice), Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Lindsay Leisher

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Teresa Wright

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 as presented. The motion carried.

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 19, 2005**

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 Research**

Resolution COR 2005-06A

Resolution Amending the Policy on Research Extended Appointments

Revision of Policy 6200

Dr. Sam Easterling introduced the resolution for first reading. Dr. Pat Hyer then reviewed the policy and proposed revisions. Policy 6200 has been in place for a number of years. Prior to that, summer research earnings were treated as wages, and no benefits were accrued. The "CY Research Conversion" was subsequently created to establish a 12-month appointment whereby externally-funded faculty earnings on a sponsored project that extended for three months over the summer would be eligible for retirement contributions from the sponsored grant or contract (not from overhead or state dollars).

The College of Engineering Faculty Organization surveyed a number of research universities to compare retirement benefits as one aspect of a competitive compensation package. They found that although rates of retirement contributions are relatively comparable, the treatment of

summer salary differs. The faculty organization requested a review of ways in which faculty members who have between one and three months of external summer funding might have an opportunity to accrue retirement benefits on those summer earnings.

Therefore, this amendment to the policy would also provide for 10-month and 11-month CY research conversions for those situations in which a faculty member has less than a full three months of external funding for a sponsored project over the summer. In summary, the amended policy provides for 10-month, 11-month, or 12-month research conversions, while the existing policy provides for only a 12-month research conversion. As before, the retirement contributions would be contingent upon sufficient fringe benefits being available in the sponsored grant or contract.

A question was raised as to whether summer school (teaching) salaries could be treated in the same way. Dr. Hyer explained that summer school teaching salaries are paid with state funds, and the state does not make retirement contributions based on faculty summer school earnings. Thus, the CY research conversion applies only to externally funded work.

Dr. McNamee commended the College of Engineering Faculty Organization for doing much of the background research and Pat Hyer for working with the faculty groups to amend the policy.

NOTE: In cases where the external funding would occur for only one summer, the faculty member would be required to make arrangements for the CY research conversion during the preceding fall semester. The reason is that VRS continually monitors against manipulating earnings for a single, short-term period for the purpose of boosting the (eventual) retirement payout.

#### **4. 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 A/P Faculty Affairs  
September 6, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
September 2, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
April 20, 2005
- Commission on Research  
April 13, 2005

#### **5. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
August 25, 2005

#### **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**October 24, 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Alicia Cohen for Ben Dixon, Rodd Hall for Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, William Snizek for Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Kevin McDonald, Diane Reaver for Judy Alford, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Tom Walker for Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Maxine Lyons for Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Mark Anderson, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Leon Geyer, Akilah Chopfield, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Swamy Siddaramappa, Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Susanna Rinehart, Navin Manjooran

**Absent:** John Dooley (with notice), Michael Kelly, Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Charles Steger, Tom Tillar, Kerry Redican, Richard Ashley, Chris Thomas, James Berkson, Gene Brown, Hans Rott (with notice), Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Donna Hamm, David Jones (with notice), Ed McPherson (with notice) Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Devin Weller, Jennifer Jessie

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Teresa Wright

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 as presented. The motion carried.

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 10, 2005**

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. Old Business**

**Commission on Research**

Resolution COR 2005-06A

Resolution Amending the Policy on Research Extended Appointments

Revision of Policy 6200

Dr. Sam Easterling introduced the resolution for second reading. A motion was made to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded and the resolution passed unanimously.

**4. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes**

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- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
September 7, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
September 16, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
September 21, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
September 8, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs  
September 15, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
September 26, 2005

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**November 14, 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Judy Lilly for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, Rodd Hall for Brad Fenwick, Janice LaForce for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Don Kenney for Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt Michael Kelly, Bob Schubert for Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Kevin McDonald, Mark McNamee, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Gerhardt Schurig, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Scott Case, Mike Akers for Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Tom Walker for Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Ed McPherson, Kerry Wood, Kristina Perry, Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooran

**Absent:** Richard Benson, John Dooley (with notice), Sharron Quisenberry, Kerry Redican, Richard Ashley, Fabrice Teulon, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm, David Jones, Therese Lovegreen, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Swamy Siddaramappa, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Chris Miller

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Lawrence Grossman, Teresa Wright

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 as presented. The motion carried.

**2. Discussion Higher Education Restructuring Act**

Dr. Steger reported on a meeting he had with Governor Warner. The restructuring management agreement is currently being revised. Upon signature of the Governor, the General Assembly will then vote.

We will emerge with a significant increase in the autonomy to operate the university and this is expected to translate into savings that can be reinvested into the university's core mission.

**3. Discussion of Recent Crimes Affecting VT Students**

The recent incident which resulted in the death of a student off campus is still under investigation. The police department is working aggressively and there is encouraging progress related to this investigation.

On a separate matter, the university also experienced another incident of racially motivated graffiti. Four individuals were involved (two Virginia Tech students and two non-Virginia Tech students). The visitors have been banned from campus and the Virginia Tech students will be dealt with appropriately through our judicial system. Additionally, university officials and campus police will be meeting with the Commonwealth Attorney to explore whether legal action can be taken.

Mr. Kurt Krause informed the Council that there is a Campus Crime Task Force. One goal of the task force is to form a network with other schools in Virginia and several nearby states in order to share information when a student from one campus violates student life policies on another campus in the network. Mr. Krause announced the upcoming Campus Climate Checkup meeting and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Susanna Rinehart also announced that several safe zone stickers in the history department have been vandalized. Mr. Krause responded that the stickers will be covered in a finish that is harder to deface.

#### **4. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 24, 2005**

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>).

#### **5. New Business**

##### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06A

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis in the College of Natural Resources

Dr. Scott Case introduced the resolution for first reading. In response to a question, Dr. Laurence "Larry" Grossman stated that there will not be a need for new resources. The plan is to use graduate assistantships re-allocated within the college to help support the doctoral program. Eventually, the funding for the graduate research assistantships will come from external grants.

#### **6. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes**

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- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
October 7, 2005
- Commission on Equal Opportunity & Diversity  
September 26, 2005  
October 3, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
October 6, 2005  
October 21, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
October 5, 2005  
October 19, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
October 13, 2005
- Commission on Research

September 14, 2005

- Commission on Student Affairs  
October 6, 2005

## **7. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
October 6, 2005

## **8. Update on Budget Requests and Explanation of Southside Initiative**

Dr. Steger updated the Council on the status of budget requests with the current governor. Once the governor-elect takes office, we will be working with him to make sure we are well represented.

In response to a question, Dr. Steger explained the Southside Initiative and how it relates to Virginia Tech. Money from the sale of the hospital in Martinsville was put into the Harvest Foundation with the stipulation that the money be spent to help the community. Former Governor Baliles chairs a commission that recently completed a study to look at what can be done to help the economy of that region, which has been dependent upon textiles, furniture, tobacco, and coal. They have experienced significant job loss and are in serious economic condition. The study concluded that one of the key things that can be done is to start a four-year institution to help retrain the workforce. A proposal for an accelerated curriculum was formulated. The Harvest Foundation has agreed to fund \$50 million for this endeavor. Many people have encouraged Virginia Tech to adopt this enterprise and to allow it to become a branch of this university. Instead, Virginia Tech has agreed for economic development purposes to put together a committee that would advise them in developing a curriculum that would be suited to the needs of that area. This committee includes members from Longwood and Radford Universities, a representative from the State Council on Higher Education, and a representative from Secretary of Education's office, and others. All Virginia Tech faculty time, travel, etc. will be fully reimbursed so that no university resources will be used. The Memorandum of Understanding states that a president of this new entity must be hired quickly, and that no funds of Virginia Tech will be used to benefit this effort, nor will Virginia Tech receive any funds on behalf of this new entity. Virginia Tech will not administer the budget of this new entity. Virginia Tech will simply act in an advisory manner.

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**December 5, 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Ed Nelson for Richard Benson, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kurt Krause, Kevin McDonald, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kamal Rojiani, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Laura Gillman, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsey Leisher, Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Derek Jones for Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart

**Absent:** Erv Blythe, David Ford, Paul Knox, Jerry Niles, Judy Alford (with notice), Richard Ashley, Kathleen Jones, Fabrice Teulon, Lori Anne Sheppard, James Berkson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Leon Geyer, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Ed Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson (with notice), Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood

**Guests:** Lawrence Grossman, Mike Vorster, Carolyn Rude, Lucinda Roy, Teresa Wright

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of November 14, 2005**

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. Announcement of Research Funding**

The Dr. Steger reported that a press conference will be held by Governor Warner. In his upcoming budget, Governor Warner will award \$255 million to develop and promote higher educational research facilities and faculty in Virginia. This will be the largest one-time investment in research made in the history of Virginia.

**4. Old Business**

**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06A

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis in the College of Natural Resources

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. This resolution will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval and then the State Council on Higher Education.

## **5. New Business**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06B

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Rhetoric and Writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Scott Case introduced the resolution for first reading. The resolution will be presented for second reading and voting at the February 6 University Council meeting.

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

Resolution CUSP 2005-06A and CGSP 2005-06C

Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Construction at Virginia Tech

Dr. Scott Case introduced the resolution for first reading. Forthcoming will be proposals for a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Management. This will be a degree in the College of Engineering that will be administered by the School of Construction. There will also be a proposal to establish an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree program in Construction. In addition to the proposed undergraduate degree and Ph.D. degree, two existing master degree programs will be administered by the school: one in Building Construction, and the other in Civil Engineering. Dean Sorensen noted that the Pamplin College of Business supports the proposal for this new school.

Dr. Mike Vorster stated that major funding has been secured for the development of this school upon its approval.

## **6. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes**

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October 13, 2005
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- Commission on Student Affairs  
October 20, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
November 10, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
October 10, 2005  
October 24, 2005

**7. Announcement**

Virginia Tech has been invited to play in the Gator Bowl. This invitation has been accepted, and announced nationally.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**February 6, 2006**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Rodd Hall for Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Eileen Hitchingham, James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Jean Brickey, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, James Tyger for Kristina Perry, Susanna Rinehart

**Absent:** Ben Dixon, John Dooley (with notice), Kevin McDonald, Charles Steger, Richard Ashley, Kathleen Jones, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Hans Rott, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Chris Miller, Devin Weller, Jessie Jennifer, Navin Manjooran

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Mike Vorster, Mary Ann Lewis, Eileen Crist, Joan Marie, John Randolph, Carolyn Rude, Teresa Wright

Dr. McNamee called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 5, 2005**

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 & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06D

Resolution for Establishment of a Ph.D in Architecture and Design Research Degree Proposal in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06E



Resolution for Establishment of a Ph.D in Planning, Governance & Globalization Degree  
Proposal in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

Dr. Scott Case presented both resolutions (CGSP 2005-06D and CGSP 2005-06E) for first reading.

Dr. John Randolph reviewed each resolution. Both degrees are derived from the existing Ph.D program, Environmental Design and Planning (EDP). The Environmental Design Planning program has grown significantly and the title no longer accurately represents the true program. The proposal is to establish two new programs from the existing one.

It is anticipated that a greater number of prospective students will be attracted by the more accurate program descriptions. The current EDP program will continue until students in that program have graduated. New students will enroll in either of the two new programs.

Both of the proposed degrees will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Visitors in their March meeting. Should they be approved, they will then be submitted to the State Council on Higher Education for final approval.

**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06F

Resolution to Establish a Course Withdrawal Policy for Graduate Students

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for first reading.

Dr. Karen DePauw explained that while the university has an established policy allowing undergraduate students to formally request credit hours to be designated as “withdrawn” (W), there is no policy allowing graduate students this same option. This resolution will allow course withdrawal for graduate students under certain specified terms to withdraw from a course. The transcript will reflect this by a “WG” (withdrawal graduate). There is no limit set as to the maximum withdraw credits or number of occurrences allowed. The “WG” notation will remain on the transcript, and is an honest reflection of academic performance, or the lack thereof. This notation also provides proof of dates for course enrollment. To alleviate abuse of this policy, permission must be granted in each instance from both the graduate school and from the equivalent of the department head.

### **Commission on University Support**

Resolution CUS 2005-06A

Resolution for Change in Membership of the Transportation and Parking Committee

Dr. Jan Helge Bohn presented the resolution for first reading and reviewed the proposed change in membership of the Transportation and Parking Committee.

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

Resolution CUSP 2005-06B

Resolution to Approve New Degree, "Humanities, Science and Environment,"  
Bachelor of Arts from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Bob Wheeler presented and reviewed the resolution for first reading.

## **4. Old Business**

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06B

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Rhetoric and Writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. This resolution will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval and then the State Council on Higher Education.

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

Resolution CGSP 2005-06C and CUSP 2005-06A

Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Construction at Virginia Tech

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. This resolution will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval and then the State Council on Higher Education.

In response to a question, Dr. Vorster stated will be structured between College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering.

## **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 Classified Staff Affairs  
November 10, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
December 1, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
November 2, 2005  
November 16, 2005  
December 7, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
December 8, 2005
- Commission on Research  
October 5, 2005  
November 9, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs  
November 3, 2005  
November 17, 2005  
December 1, 2005
- Commission on University Support  
November 17, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
November 14, 2005  
November 28, 2005  
December 12, 2005

## **6. For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
December 1, 2005

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**February 20, 2006**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Sheryl Ball for Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, David Travis for Kevin McDonald, Judy Alford, Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Richard Goff, Amy Nelson for Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Jean Brickey, Cindy Koziol for Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, James Tyger for Kristina Perry, Susanna Rinehart

**Absent:** Zenobia Hikes, Gerhardt Schurig, Charles Steger (with notice), Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Richard Ashley, Jack Cranford, Lori Anne Sheppard (with notice), James Berkson, Eugene Brown (with notice), Leon Geyer, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Laura Gillman (with notice), Donna Hamm, David Jones, Ed McPherson, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista (with notice),

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, Mary Ann Lewis, Eileen Crist, Joan Marie, Teresa Wright

Dr. McNamee called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 6, 2006**

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. Old Business**

**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06D

Resolution for Establishment of a Ph.D in Architecture and Design Research Degree Proposal in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved with one abstention.

**Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06E

Resolution for Establishment of a Ph.D in Planning, Governance & Globalization Degree Proposal in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously.

### **Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2005-06F

Resolution to Establish a Course Withdrawal Policy for Graduate Students

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded.

A question was raised concerning how courses that apply to both the Bachelors and Masters degrees in the Five-Year Bachelor/Master Degree programs would be documented in a withdrawal situation. Some courses can be applied to both degrees. Dr. Karen DePauw explained that it is not how the course is applied, but rather the undergraduate/graduate status of the student that will determine how the withdrawal will be recorded.

Dr. Case responded to a question regarding how the withdrawal will affect research funding. At the point in time a withdrawal is made, tuition will have been paid and the student will not be reimbursed. The withdrawal record will show that the project was attempted, but not finished.

The resolution was approved with two abstentions.

### **Commission on University Support**

Resolution CUS 2005-06A

Resolution for Change in Membership of the Transportation and Parking Committee

Dr. Jan Helge Bohn presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution CUSP 2005-06B

Resolution to Approve New Degree, "Humanities, Science and Environment," Bachelor of Arts from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Bob Wheeler presented and reviewed the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

## **4. 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 Classified Staff Affairs  
January 12, 2006
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
December 5, 2005  
January 23, 2006  
January 30, 2006
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
January 20, 2006
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs

January 19, 2006

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**April 3, 2006**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Michael Kelly, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Sue Ellen Crocker for Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Pat Hyer for Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Amy Nelson for Kathleen Jones, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Mark Anderson, Elaine Scott for Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Leon Geyer, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, James Tyger for Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Sarah Saxton for Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Navin Manjoran

**Absent:** Charles Steger (with notice), Ben Dixon (with notice), John Dooley (with notice), David Ford (with notice), Zenobia Hikes (with notice), James Hyatt (with notice), Kevin McDonald, Charles Steger (with notice), Judy Alford (with notice), Joan Moore, Richard Ashley, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Chris Thomas (with notice), James Berkson, Hans Rott, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Jennifer Jessie

**Guests:** Edd Sewell, Ken Eriksson, Sheryl Ball, Teresa Wright

In President Steger's absence, Dr. McNamee called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present. He announced that there are only two remaining scheduled meetings left in this academic year: April 17 and May 1. The next meeting will be the last opportunity for new business to be introduced, and old business must be concluded at the May 1 meeting.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 20, 2006**

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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity**

Resolution CEOD 2005-06A

Resolution on Reporting Diversity-Related Activities on Faculty Activity Reports (FARs)

Dr. Pat Hyer presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of Ray Plaza. This resolution is to add diversity accomplishments as part of the annual Faculty Activity Reports (FARs). Three of the eight colleges already require reporting of this information. Diversity is also one of the core competencies listed as a requirement in evaluations for classified staff, and is a component of the promotion and tenure dossiers. The resolution does not assign an evaluation value to

these activities on the report, but encourages vice-presidents, department heads and deans to find ways to collect and report information.

There was discussion about enforcing accountability for these activities with more specific requirements. Conversely, several people spoke in support of the need to maintain flexibility by keeping the requirements broad.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06A

Resolution for Policy on Tenure Clock Extensions

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. This is a proposed modification to the existing policy on probationary period extensions for tenure-track (and continued appointment track) faculty members. This resolution contains examples of situations to which this policy might apply, but the list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06B

Resolution for Policy on Modified Duties

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The proposed new policy would enable workload accommodations to be negotiated for tenured or tenure-track faculty members with extenuating circumstances. No formal policy currently exists, although some department heads have informally negotiated workload accommodations.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06C

Resolution for Composition of Committees for Promotion and Tenure Evaluation

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The goal of this resolution is to guard against undue influence by any one person in shaping the debate or outcome of a promotion and tenure case.

Several Council members conveyed they would like time to review this resolution with department heads and faculty representatives before voting.

A request was made and granted to defer this resolution until the May 1 meeting in order for the Commission on Faculty Affairs, the Faculty Senate, and others to further consider the resolution. Comments about the resolution should be directed to Kerry Redican.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06D

Resolution for Valid Issues for Faculty Grievances

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of the policy revision is to clarify what constitutes a grievable issue. Dr. Redican emphasized that with regard to promotion and tenure, this resolution addresses procedural violations rather than the merits of the case.

If at the April 17 meeting it is determined that further discussion is needed, then the resolution may be deferred to May 1.



### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06E

Resolution for Charge and Membership of the Faculty Senate Committee on Reconciliation

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. It was noted that this resolution is linked to CFA 2005-06D and thus must be treated in the same way with regard to deferrals, etc.

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

Resolution CGSP 2005-06G

Resolution for Establishment of the Masters of Agricultural and Life Sciences Degree

Dr. Scott Case presented for first reading the resolution for an on-line, non-thesis master's degree. Dr. Timothy Mack was available for questions. In response to a question, he defined a place-bound learner as someone who cannot locate to campus. One example is a person who is employed full-time and would like a master's degree to help with their job performance and merits.

#### **4. 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 8, 2006
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
January 12, 2006  
February 9, 2006
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
February 27, 2006  
March 13, 2006
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
February 3, 2006  
February 17, 2006  
March 17, 2006
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
January 18, 2006  
February 1, 2006  
February 15, 2006  
March 1, 2006

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
February 9, 2006  
March 16, 2006
- Commission on Research  
December 7, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs  
February 2, 2006
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
February 13, 2006  
February 27, 2006  
March 13, 2006
- Commission on University Support  
January 19, 2006  
February 16, 2006

**5. For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
January 26, 2006  
March 2, 2006

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**April 17, 2006**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Zenobia Hikes, Eileen Hitchingham, James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kurt Krause, Mark McNamee, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Roger Avery for Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Brian Mihalik for Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Christa Thomas for Jean Brickey, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Amy Nelson for Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Leon Geyer, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Susanna Rinehart

**Absent:** Ben Dixon, Paul Knox, Kevin McDonald, Richard Ashley, Jean Brickey, James Berkson, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Ed McPherson, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsey Leisher, Kristina Perry, Sarah Saxton, James Tyger, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooran

**Guests:** Frances Keene, Pat Hyer, Mike Vorster, Kay Heidbreder, Teresa Wright

President Steger called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 3, 2006**

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 Student Affairs**

Resolution CSA 2005-06A

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life

Ms. Jory Zmuda Ruscio introduced Frances Keene, Director of Judicial Affairs. Ms. Keene reviewed the three points of the resolution, which was brought before University Council for first reading.

1. Information may be shared among Judicial Affairs, and both the Undergraduate and Graduate Honor Systems. The University Judicial System and the Honor Systems are separate entities. They report through different areas of the university and deal with different issues. The purpose of this resolution is to give both offices a vehicle by which to share information when they have cases in common. This allows the system to better address student behavior. This policy clarifies to the student that information may be

shared as appropriate. Kay Heidbreder, University Legal Counsel, confirmed that sharing information in this manner on a need-to-know basis does not violate the Buckley Amendment.

2. Currently, the Office of Judicial Affairs does not have the purview to withhold a student's degree if they are involved in serious misconduct at the end of their graduating year. However, the Virginia Tech Honor System does have the authority to withhold academic degrees until a student comes into compliance with sanctions.

Kay Heidbreder, University Legal Counsel, reported that Virginia Tech legally reserves the right to look at student behavior on and off campus. This policy reinforces the right to take action on misconduct. Academic degrees can be withheld for a period of time because of behavior that is incompatible with the disciplinary standards of the university, and until the student comes into compliance with sanctions.

Dr. Scott Case stated that the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies has oversight responsibility of the Graduate Honor System. Since this resolution affects the honor system, he feels that CGSP should have the opportunity to review this resolution before voting by University Council. Dr. Bob Wheeler made a parallel request on behalf of CUSP. Ms. Keene responded that the Graduate and Undergraduate Systems are both part of University Student Life programs and those student life policies are traditionally managed by the division of Student Affairs. Changes to University Student Life policies have historically gone through Student Affairs as they include graduate and undergraduate student representatives.

Dean DePauw expressed concern that parts of this resolution may be in conflict with Graduate Honor System Constitution and further review is necessary.

3. The reciprocity statement for jurisdiction of off-campus misconduct is to convey to all students across the Commonwealth of Virginia that misconduct by themselves as well as their visitors from other institutions will not be tolerated.

Since there is only one more University Council meeting for this academic year, both CGSP and CUSP are encouraged to review this resolution and provide their input to Frances Keene.

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

Resolution to Approve new Degree "Construction Engineering and Management"  
Bachelor of Science from the College of Engineering

Dr. Bob Wheeler presented the resolution for first reading. The proposed degree will involve faculty from both the College of Engineering and the school of construction.

Dean Richard Sorensen stated that the Pamplin College of Business fully supports the proposed degree. Dean Benson added that the College of Engineering does as well.

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

##### **Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity**

Resolution CEOD 2005-06A

Resolution on Reporting Diversity-Related Activities on Faculty Activity Reports (FARs)

Mr. Ray Plaza presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. Ms. Susanna Rinehart, President of Faculty Senate, reported that there are concerns by members of Faculty Senate on implementing and evaluating specifics. There will still need to be ongoing conversations about enforcing accountability and specific requirements.

An amendment was proposed to make the language on the faculty activity report relative to the reporting of diversity-related accomplishments consistent with the language in the remainder of the FAR. Another amendment was proposed to change the term “*unit mission*” to “*university’s mission*.” Mr. Plaza accepted both amendments.

There was a motion to accept the resolution with the two amendments. The motion was seconded and the resolution as amended passed unanimously.

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06A

Resolution for Policy on Tenure Clock Extensions

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. An amendment was proposed to add language to clarify beyond any doubt that the policy also applies to faculty members on the continued appointment track.

Another amendment was proposed to specify automatic grant of requests to stop the clock upon request. Dr. Redican accepted both amendments.

A motion was made to accept the resolution with these two amendments. The motion was seconded, and the resolution as amended passed unanimously.

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06B

Resolution for Policy on Modified Duties

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. Dr. Steger commented that cost estimates have been gathered and will be presented to the Board of Visitors. He stated for the record that if actual costs differ dramatically from the estimates, this resolution may need to be revisited.

The motion to adopt this resolution was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously.

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06C

Resolution for Composition of Committees for Promotion and Tenure Evaluation

Dr. Kerry Redican withdrew this resolution before it was presented for second reading. Further discussion and review is needed before bringing this resolution before University Council for consideration. [Note: Withdrawn resolutions are not posted on the web.]

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06D

Resolution for Valid Issues for Faculty Grievances

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval.

Dr. Leon Geyer reported that if the language remains as it is, violations of tenure procedures are grievable under the current interpretation of the handbook. The proposed change is to codify practice. The interpretation that procedural violations are grievable has been made by the committee that has the responsibility to determine if an issue is grievable (President of the Faculty Senate, the Chair of Faculty Review Committee and the Chair of Reconciliation).

There were discussions of varied interpretations what is considered grievable. Dean Benson indicated that he had a statement from the engineering department heads opposing the resolution. Additionally, Deans Knox and Quisenberry, who could not be present, had asked him to share their concerns. It was suggested that there are may be alternative approaches to the resolution that would better address key issues and further discussion is needed.

On behalf of the Commission on Faculty Affairs, Dr. Redican requested that this resolution be withdrawn in order to further review other approaches. It was withdrawn with the general consent of University Council. [Note: Withdrawn resolutions are not posted on the web.]

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2005-06E

Resolution for Charge and Membership of the Faculty Senate Committee on Reconciliation

As this resolution is linked to the withdrawn CFA Resolution 2005-06D, Dr. Redican on behalf of CFA withdrew this resolution as well before it was presented for second reading. [Note: Withdrawn resolutions are not posted on the web.]

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

Resolution CGSP 2005-06G

Resolution for Establishment of the Online Masters of Agricultural and Life Sciences Degree

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution passed unanimously.

## **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 Research  
February 8, 2006
- Commission on Student Affairs  
February 16, 2006  
March 2, 2006  
March 23, 2006
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
January 23, 2006

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

**University Council Minutes**  
**May 1, 2006**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Anne Moore for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Zenobia Hikes, Donald Kenny for Eileen Hitchingham, Michael Kelly, Paul Knox, Denny Cochrane for Kurt Krause, Kevin McDonald, Bill Snizek for Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Mike Akers for Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, O. H. Griffin, for Richard Goff, Amy Nelson for Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, , Jean Brickey, Robin Atkins for Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Muzzo Uysal, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, James Tyger, Susanna Rinehart

**Absent:** Jim Hyatt (with notice), Mark McNamee (with notice), Richard Ashley, Fabrice Teulon, Chris Thomas, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Laura Gillman, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsey Leisher, Kristina Perry, Sarah Saxton, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooan

**Guests:** Frances Keene, Pat Hyer, Teresa Wright

President Steger called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 17, 2006**

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. Old Business**

**Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution CSA 2005-06A

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life

Ms. Jory Zmuda Ruscio turned the floor over to Ms. Frances Keene, Director of Judicial Affairs, to address specifics of the resolution prior to making a motion for approval. Ms. Keene reported that she was able to meet with CGSP and CUSP. The first portion of the resolution was passed unanimously by CUSP. The Undergraduate Honor System is also fully supportive. As in the previous University Council meeting, some of the same concerns voiced by CGSP still remained. This resolution is viewed to still be in conflict with the graduate honor system constitution. The conflicts would still need to be addressed should the resolution pass. Concerns of possible student privacy violations were also expressed. Ms. Keene stated that if University Council so chooses, the three components can be considered separately.



On behalf of CGSP, Dr. Scott Case reported that the Commission requests more time to review specific points in conflict to the graduate honor system the policy. Ms. Susanna Rinehart, representative of Faculty Senate, expressed concern that there may not have been adequate review time by key individuals and groups. Ms. Rinehart recommended deferring the entire resolution (all parts) to allow for adequate review time and circulation.

A question was raised about the inequity of reciprocity being confined to the state of Virginia while institutions in neighboring states may be geographically closer to Virginia Tech than some of the institutions within in the confines of the Commonwealth. Ms. Keene stated that the university can always take action on offenses committed by a VT student in any part of the United States if the university's interests are deemed to be involved.

A motion was made and seconded to defer the entire resolution to the fall. A vote to defer the entire resolution was passed unanimously. Dr. Steger explained that deferring to the fall would technically kill the resolution because the bylaws prohibit carrying business forward to the next academic year. However, the resolution can be brought forward anew and approved by University Council in the fall. If presented early enough, the Board of Visitors could then vote on the resolution in their November meeting. This would allow the resolution to be in effect for the spring semester 2007. In the interim, the resolution should be discussed further with CGSP, and the Faculty Senate. Any other interested parties should identify themselves to Ms. Keene.

[Secretary's note: Technically, a subsidiary motion – such as a motion to defer or postpone to a certain time – cannot be made unless there is a main motion on the floor. Because Ms. Ruscio never made the motion for approval of the resolution, there was no main motion on the floor. In any event, the By-laws prevent business being carried from one academic year to the next, and thus, to be considered by University Council, the resolution would have to be presented anew to University Council next fall for first reading, second reading, and vote. It would be considered a new resolution (or new resolutions).]

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

Resolution to Approve new Degree “Construction Engineering and Management”  
Bachelor of Science from the College of Engineering

Dr. Bob Wheeler presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **4. 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  
April 14, 2006
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
March 9, 2006
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
April 17, 2006
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
March 31, 2006

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
March 15, 2006
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
April 13, 2006

**5. For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
March 23, 2006

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.