

University Council Minutes
February 16, 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, Leslie O'Brien for Eileen Hitchingham, J. Michael Kelly, Perry Martin for Kevin McDonald, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Sue Ott Rowlands, Susan Sumner for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhard Schurig, Kay Hunnings for Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Tom Inzana for Robert Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Daniel Wubah, Paul Deck, William Huckle, Frances Keene, Gary Long, Maxine Lyons, Guy Sims for Daphne Rainey-Wittich, Leslie O'Brien for Bradley Scott, Bob Denton, Sam Easterling, Ken Eriksson, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Bill Galloway, Bob Sturges, Philip Radtke for Shep Zedaker, Judy Alford Travis Hundley, Shelly Key, Wyatt Sasser, Annette Bailey, Tamim Younos, Lindsay Moss, Lauren Creasy, Rachel Goodwin, Linsey Barker, Tom Tucker, Hardus Odendaal,

Absent: John Dooley (with notice), Elizabeth Flanagan, Dwight Shelton (with notice), Ingrid Ngai, Jane Wemhoener, Diane Zahm (with notice), Sam Riley, Susanna Rinehart, Lewis Wasserman, Karen Inzana, Gene Seago, David Vaughan (with notice), Lori Anne Kirk (with notice), Teresa Lyons (with notice), Mary Alice Schaeffer, Kim Beisecker, Carson Byrd (with notice), Lauren Davis, Mike Parrish, Wayne Scales, Joe McFadden, Todd Metcalf, Thomas Hogdahl, Kelsie Lieberman, Kolt Risser, Rianka Urbina, Arlane Gordon-Bray

Guests: April Myers, Pat Hyer

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 February 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. Announcements

Dr. Steger informed the Council that two town hall meetings have been scheduled to address any concerns about the budget. The first meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday in Burruss Hall Auditorium. The second one is 11:00 a.m. Wednesday in the same place. The state's budget reforecast is worse than the original shortfall of \$2.9 billion. It is unclear as to how much the state and university may receive from the federal stimulus package.

4. New Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution 2008-09A

Removal of a Principal, Co-Principal or Lead Investigator

Dr. Gary Long presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution has been approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs and the Commission on Research. If adopted, this resolution will establish steps for the removal process of a Principal, Co-Principal, or Lead Investigator (PI). Currently there is not an appeal process in the Faculty Handbook for the removal of a PI.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution 2008-09B

Professors of Practice

Dr. Gary Long presented the resolution for first reading and called upon Dr. Sam Easterling to explain the resolution. Dr. Easterling clarified that the resolution had been approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs and by the Faculty Senate; however, the Faculty Senate vote was not unanimous. The resolution creates a new faculty rank similar in concept to the clinical faculty rank employed by the vet school, which Dean Schurig affirmed has worked very well. This new rank is a good, but optional tool that a department may choose to use at its discretion. The professor of practice series does not have a mandatory research component, but may have a research component at the department's discretion. There are no aspects of tenure associated with the professor of practice series. A concern was raised that having so many academic ranks diminishes the professorial ranks and may be problematic to administer.

5. Old Business

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

Resolution CAPFA 2008-09B

Teaching Credit Classes and Overload Compensation for Administrative and Professional Faculty Members

Ms. Frances Keene presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was approved.

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

Resolution CAPFA 2008-09C

Resolution for changes to the Administrative and Professional Faculty Grievance Process

Ms. Frances Keene presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded, and Ms. Keene accepted a friendly amendment to add "termination for cause" under Valid Issues for Grievances, paragraph one. The resolution was approved.

Commission on University Support

Resolution CUS 2008-09B

Resolution to Amend Policy on Smoking (Revision to University Policy 1010)

On behalf of Bradley Scott, Ms. Leslie O'Brien presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval, which was seconded. After some discussion, the resolution was approved with the understanding that the twenty-five foot distance can be refined at a later date.

6. Presentation on April 16 Committee Recommendations: Presented by Dr. Mark McNamee

The committee made its recommendations to the President to not have classes on April 16, 2009, and April 16, 2010, in response to input received from committee members. The committee also recommended returning to a regular class schedule on April 16, 2012 (April 16,

2011 falls on a Saturday and will not affect the University Calendar). The President approved of the committee's recommendations. A master schedule of commemorative activities will be drafted and released in the near future. The renovations and opening of Norris Hall should be completed prior to April 16, 2009.

7. 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
December 8, 2008
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
December 3, 2008
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
December 11, 2008
- Commission on Research
November 12, 2008
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
December 16, 2008
- Commission on Student Affairs
October 16, 2008
November 20, 2008
December 4, 2008
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
December 8, 2008
- Commission on University Support
November 20, 2008

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.