

## University Council Minutes

April 5, 2010

3:00 – 5:00 PM

1045 Pamplin Hall

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Karen Eley Sanders, Elizabeth Flanagan, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, Eileen Hitchingham, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Sue Ott Rowlands, Lud Eng for Gerhardt Schurig, Lisa Wilkes for Dwight Shelton, Maggie Sloane, Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Robert Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Daniel Wubah, Carla Finkielstein, William Huckle, Pat Hyer for Marilynn King, Maxine Lyons, Michelle McLeese, Joseph Eska for Patrick Miller, Leslie O'Brien, Guy Sims, Deborah Smith, Sam Easterling, Susanna Rinehart, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Dave Dugas, Judy Alford, Jean Brickey, Travis Hundley, Lori Anne Kirk, Wyatt Sasser, Annette Bailey, Kim Beisecker, Keisha Riley, Laura Freeman, Krishna Vummidi for Lindsay Moss, Gary Long, Tom Tucker

**Absent** Earving Blythe (with notice), Terry Clements, Jim Kuypers (with notice), Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Gene Seago, Dean Stauffer, Bob Sturges, David Vaughan (with notice), Stacey Poertner (with notice), Dave Shuster (with notice), Craig Keys, Mike Parrish, Chris Ramos, Wayne Scales, Amy Reed, Alyson Boyce, Jeff Chuang, Nicki Field, Ally Hammond, Shane McCarty, Steven Murphy, Rebecca French, Kristina Hartman

**Guests:** Betty Fine, April Myers, Bailey Van Hook

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

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

### 2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 29, 2010

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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity**

Resolution 2009-10B

Revisions to Policy 1025

Guy Sims presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Sims introduced Maggie Sloane to explain the resolution. Sloane indicated that this resolution will reflect the current practice of conducting an investigation after a complaint of harassment or discrimination is received by departments instead of waiting for a formal complaint. The resolution is also revising the appeals process by simplifying it so that it now refers to the appeals process in the faculty and staff handbooks. It was mentioned that the staff handbook needs to be included in section 6.

#### **Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

Resolution 2009-10B

## Resolution for Change in Membership of the Commission on Administrative And Professional Faculty Affairs

Pat Hyer presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Hyer gave background information on the membership of the commission. When the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs (CAPFA) was created, the Administrative and Professional (AP) Faculty were divided up into four large areas in order to better group the elections process. The four areas include academic support, general administration, student affairs, and cooperative extension. There are nine CAPFA seats that are filled by elections from these four areas. The nine seats were apportioned by the number of people in the four areas at the time the commission was formed. The resolution stresses that there have been demographic shifts in terms of the numbers of employees in the four areas. There were more than 400 extension agents when the commission was formed and that number has decreased to 271. There are now more general administration AP Faculty since the conversion of staff in pay bands 5 through 7 to AP Faculty. This resolution will reapportion the nine seats in relative proportion to the four groups by moving two seats from extension to general administration. This change will take place on a transition schedule. One seat will be vacated next year by the retirement of an extension agent who is currently serving, and another seat will become vacant the following year.

### **4. Old Business**

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

Resolution 2009-10B

Resolution for the Establishment of a Masters of Arts Degree in Material Culture and Public Humanities

Joe Eska 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 2009-10C

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

Resolution 2009-10A

Resolution Regarding the Name Change of the College of Natural Resources to the College of Natural Resources and Environment

Joe Eska presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. Dr. Eska introduced Dean Paul Winistorfer to answer any questions about the resolution. A friendly amendment was proposed to remove the word "former" and change the word "had" to "has" in the fifth whereas statement, as well as add "within the USDA" after National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in the sixth whereas statement. Dr. Winistorfer accepted the friendly amendment.

Dean Winistorfer indicated that changing the name of the College of Natural Resources to the College of Natural Resources and Environment will help expand the college's vision and relevance. Dean Winistorfer informed the Council that the academic programs on the university's website are listed alphabetically and are not grouped by college.

Dr. Easterling stated that there are many programs and departments outside of the College of Natural Resources that are keenly engaged in issues pertaining to environment, and when environment is added to the name of a single college, it will send a message to those outside of the university. Dr. Easterling then indicated that there should have been a broader discussion before bringing it to University Council. Dean Benson supported Dr. Easterling's position. Dean Ott Rowlands suggested that the implication in the name is that all things about the environment will be brought together under one college.

Dr. McNamee indicated that the College of Natural Resources followed all of the procedures recommended to them. This requested change is similar to the Life Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It is not meant to be all inclusive, and the entire campus will benefit from the change because it is an important part of the college's mission. Dr. Long informed the Council that the Faculty Senate was polled and the Faculty Senate will support the resolution. Dean Winistorfer stressed that the College of Natural Resources is

not trying to obtain additional resources. He has no aspiration to change the college's name and then put up a fence around the college. He wants to work collegially with other colleges. The College of Natural Resources looked at other colleges around the country and determined that the new name proposed was the best identifier of the college's mission.

Dean Sorensen moved to postpone the resolution until the April 19, 2010, meeting, at which time it will be brought up for final vote. The motion was seconded, and the motion to postpone the resolution 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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
March 1, 2010
- Commission Faculty Affairs  
February 26, 2010
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
March 3, 2010
- Commission on Student Affairs  
March 18, 2010

## **6. For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
February 25, 2010

## **7. Announcements**

Dr. Steger informed the Council that the Governor is appointing a commission to study higher education, and the membership will be announced within the next couple of weeks. The commission will report out in August or September.

Dr. Spencer informed the Council that the Westboro Baptist Church has scheduled demonstrations in Blacksburg on April 9, 2010. (Refer to the Westboro Baptist Church website: <http://www.godhatesfags.com/written/wbcinfo/aboutwbc.html>) The three stops include the National Bank on Main Street, the Jewish Community Center, and the Blacksburg Middle School. There will be a counter-demonstration by Virginia Tech on the lawn of the Graduate Life Center from 12:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m. in order to attract the media to campus and away from the protesters. There will also be a Pylon Ceremony honoring a deceased cadet in the afternoon of April 9, 2010, as well as Relay for Life on campus later that night.

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:44 p.m.