

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 2015

3:00 p.m.

1045 Pamplin Hall

## AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda Dr. Timothy Sands
  
2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 23, 2015 Dr. Timothy Sands  

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web.
  
3. Old Business Dr. Timothy Sands  

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Hans Robinson  
Resolution CGSP 2014-15G  
Resolution to Amend Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 230, Awarding of a Graduate Certificate

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Stephen Martin  
Resolution CUSP 2014-15H  
Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125 (University Core Curriculum/Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE) (PPM 240))
  
4. New Business Dr. Timothy Sands  

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Hans Robinson  
Resolution CGSP 2014-15H  
Resolution on Graduate Continuous Enrollment

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Hans Robinson  
Resolution CUSP 2014-15I  
Resolution on Graduate Leave of Absence

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Hans Robinson  
Resolution CUSP 2014-15J  
Resolution on Graduate in Absentia Status
  
5. Announcement of acceptance and posting of Commission Minutes Dr. Timothy Sands  

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 Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
February 11, 2015

Commission on Faculty Affairs  
November 7, 2014

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs  
January 27, 2015

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
February 9, 2015

6. For Information Only

Dr. Timothy Sands

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
January 22, 2015

7. Adjournment

Dr. Timothy Sands

**University Council Minutes**  
**March 2, 2015**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Tim Sands (presiding), Richard Benson, Lay Nam Chang, Cyril Clarke, Jack Davis, Dennis Dean, Karen DePauw, Elizabeth Flanagan, Jane Swan for Guru Ghosh, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, Mark McNamee, Scott Midkiff, Kim O'Rourke, Hunter Gresham for Patricia Perillo, Dwight Shelton, Elizabeth Spiller, Robert Sumichrast, Tom Tillar, Tyler Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Tom Olson for Paul Winistorfer, France Bélanger, Anne Zajac for Rami Dalloul, Reed Kennedy, Ed Lener for Maxine Lyons, Stephen Martin, Hans Robinson, Susan Volkmar, Debbie Smith for Susan Anderson, Charlene Eska, Joe Merola, Rick Ashley for Corinne Noiro, Bruce Pencek, Daniel Breslau for Anita Puckett, Susanna Rinehart, Bob Rogers for Christopher Beattie, David Dillard, Tom Fox, Paul Herr, Joan Hirt, Nanda Nanthakumar, Ana Agud, Cyndy Graham, Melissa Means, Lynn Short, Tom Tucker, Brett Besag, Larry Cox, Raifu Durodoye, Kyrille Goldbeck DeBose, Alphonso Garrett, De'Ashley Spain, Matthew Chan, Samantha Erwin, Greg Purdy, Taylor Fix, Rachel Estariz for Elizabeth Lazor, Warren Nooger, Mathew Boward for Alexa Parsley, Andrew Schoka, Alicia Brown for Tanushri Shankar, Dan Cook, Bernice Hausman,

**Absent:** Pam White, Aaron Bond, Joseph Edens, Alex Parrish, Kathrine Carter (with notice), Dave Dugas, Stacey Poertner (with notice), Sue Teel, Michael Martin (with notice), Austin Larowe, Ashley Francis

**Guests:** Stephen Biscotte, Wanda H. Dean, Jack Finney, Rachel Holloway, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Gary Long, Alison Matthiessen, Kate McConnell, Carolyn Meier, April Myers, Cheryl Peterson, Ellen Plummer, Marlene Preston, Jill Sible

Dr. Sands 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 23, 2015**

Dr. Sands 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 and Policies**

CGSP Resolution 2014-15G

Resolution to Amend Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 230, Awarding of a Graduate Certificate

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

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

CUSP Resolution 2014-15H

Resolution to Revise Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 125 (University Core Curriculum/Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE) (PPM 240))

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for second reading. Dr. Martin informed the Council members that there was a change made to the resolution. The change added "or upon approval of the implementation plan

(whichever occurs last)” to the “therefore, be it resolved clause” of the resolution. Dr. Martin moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded.

After a lengthy discussion and concerns about needing additional time to review the proposal, the resolution was deferred. Dr. Sands informed the Council members that a resolution can be deferred no more than six weeks from the date of the first reading. This resolution will be voted on at the April 6, 2015, University Council meeting.

#### **4. New Business**

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

CGSP Resolution 2014-15H

Resolution on Graduate Continuous Enrollment

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Robinson stated that the purpose of this resolution is to align Virginia Tech with procedures that exist at peer institutions. Virtually all institutions of higher learning have the policy that all graduate students must stay continuously enrolled from the time they matriculate at the university until they graduate. A policy is posted on the Graduate School website, but there is no official university policy on graduate continuous enrollment so there is no way to enforce it.

Every graduate student will need to be enrolled every fall and spring semester for a minimum of three credits from the time of matriculation until graduation.

Individual graduate programs may seek approval of the Graduate School to exempt some or all of their students from this policy. Such exemptions may be granted to programs that are dominated by distance learning, programs that are specifically directed at part-time students, and to students who are university employees.

If a student fails to follow this process, the student will be resigned from the university and will have to reapply for admission in order to continue his or her studies.

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

CGSP Resolution 2014-15I

Resolution on Graduate Leave of Absence

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Robinson stated that this resolution institutes a policy on leave of absence from graduate studies. There can be a number of reasons why graduate students may need a leave of absence. A leave of absence may be granted for up to one year. If the leave of absence is longer than a year, the student will have to apply for readmission.

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

CGSP Resolution 2014-15J

Resolution on Graduate in Absentia Status

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Robinson indicated that in absentia status is for graduate students who do academic work away from campus. The academic work must be directly related to the student’s academic course of study and integral to his or her degree. Graduate students in inabsentia status will only have to enroll in one credit hour and will be interacting with their advisor on a regular basis.

A question was raised as to how graduate students may pay for this since they will not qualify for financial aid. Dr. Robinson indicated that proposal was circulated more than once to all the colleges and to the Graduate Student Assembly. The feedback received was generally positive. Most graduate students stay on campus and will not have to apply for in absentia status.

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

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February 11, 2015
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
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## **6. For Information Only**

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January 22, 2015

## **7. Update from the General Assembly**

Mr. Dwight Shelton announced that the General Assembly passed compensation programs for the faculty and staff. For teaching and research faculty at all institutions, they provided a 2 percent average salary increase. The General Assembly also put in language allowing each of the institutions to reallocate additional resources to increase the percentage from 2 percent up to 4.5 percent for teaching and research faculty. Administrative and professional faculty will get a 2 percent average salary increase. The teaching and faculty salary increase will be merit based and the administrative and professional faculty salary increase can be merit based. Classified and university staff will receive a salary increase of 2 percent. The classified staff will also receive a \$65 per year of continuous service compression raise for active employees with 5 to 30 years of state service with no additional amounts beyond 30 years of service. The compensation programs will take place on August 10, 2015, but are dependent upon the State meeting its revenue forecast for FY 2015.

Mr. Tom Tucker introduced himself as a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Governmental Employees Association (VGEA). Mr. Tucker stated that if anyone is interested in the VGEA to e-mail him at [tuckert@vt.edu](mailto:tuckert@vt.edu).

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m.