

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 6, 2014

3:00 p.m.

1045 Pamplin Hall

## AGENDA

1. **Adoption of Agenda** Dr. Timothy Sands
  
2. **Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 22, 2014** Dr. Timothy Sands  

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

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Hans Robinson  
Resolution 2014-15C  
Resolution to Establish the Master of Arts Degree in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Stephen Martin  
Resolution 2014-15A  
Resolution to Approve New Major, Criminology in the Bachelor of Science in Sociology

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Stephen Martin  
Resolution 2014-15B  
Resolution to Approve New Major, Residential Environments and Design in the Bachelor of Science in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Stephen Martin  
Resolution 2014-15C  
Resolution to Approve New Degree in Bachelor of Science in Systems Biology

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Stephen Martin  
Resolution 2014-15D  
Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Science, and Environment
  
4. **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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
May 14, 2014  
September 10, 2014

Commission on Research  
May 14, 2014
  
5. **Discussion Topics** Dr. Timothy Sands  

Discussion topics have been scheduled as follows:

**October 20, 2014**  
Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) – next steps, and innovative practices in teaching and learning (Dale Pike)

**November 3, 2014**  
Relationship between the Foundation and the University (John Dooley, Dwight Shelton)

**December 1, 2014**  
Budget process and capital planning process (Dwight Shelton)
  
6. **Adjournment** Dr. Timothy Sands

**University Council Minutes**  
**October 6, 2014**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Tim Sands (presiding), Richard Benson, Gary Long for Lay Nam Chang, Cyril Clarke, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Guru Ghosh, Saied Mostaghimi for Alan Grant, Mark McNamee, Dale Pike for Scott Midkiff, Kim O'Rourke, Hunter Gresham for Patricia Perillo, Dwight Shelton, Robert Stephens for Elizabeth Spiller, Robert Sumichrast, Martin Daniel for Robert Walters, Julie Speer for Tyler Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, France Bélanger, Aaron Bond, Rami Dalloul, Joseph Edens, Reed Kennedy, Stephen Martin, Alex Parrish, Hans Robinson, Susan Volkmar, Deborah Smith for Susan Anderson, Charlene Eska, Corinne Noirot, Anita Puckett, Susanna Rinehart, Christopher Beattie, David Dillard, Paul Herr, Joan Hirt, Ana Agud, Christine Watkinson for Darla Chudzik, Melissa Means, Lynn Short, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker, Larry Cox, Raifu Durodoye, Kyrille Goldbeck DeBose, Alphonso Garrett, Michael Martin, De'Ashley Spain, Samantha Erwin, Greg Purdy, Taylor Fix, Kylie Gilbert, Stephen Hensell, B.H. Kim, Megan Nguyen, Jake Tully, Bernice Hausman

**Absent:** Elizabeth Flanagan (with notice), Tom Tillar, Maxine Lyons, Joe Merola (with notice), Bruce Pencek, Kathrine Carter (with notice), Dave Dugas, Tom Fox, Nanda Nanthakumar, Stacey Poertner (with notice), Brett Besag (with notice), Matthew Chan, Dan Cook (with notice), Austin Larowe, Ashley Francis (with notice)

**Guests:** Jack Finney, Rachel Holloway, Hal Irvin, Sandra Muse, April Myers, Eric Smith, David Travis, Jr.

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 September 22, 2014**

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. New Business**

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution 2014-15C

Resolution to Establish the Master of Arts Degree in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for first reading.

This new degree will be directed primarily at students whose home department is not in statistics, but make extensive use of statistical techniques and methods in their research. This degree will be a way for these students to take classes from the Department of Statistics and document their competency. A question was raised as to why this new degree is a Master of Arts instead of a Master of Science degree. Dr. Eric Smith indicated that there is currently a Master of Science degree in Statistics which has a more theoretical component to it, and the new Master of Arts degree being proposed focuses more on applications. The new degree will be exam based and not thesis based.

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

Resolution 2014-15A

Resolution to Approve New Major, Criminology in the Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is converting an option to a major. Converting an option to a major makes the program more distinguishable on a student's transcript. This will also help to make the student more marketable for occupations such as FBI agents, CSI agents, national security intelligence analysts, police officers etc.

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

Resolution 2014-15B

Resolution to Approve New Major, Residential Environments and Design in the Bachelor of Science in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is also converting an option to a major. There are no major changes in curriculum and course offerings with this resolution.

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

Resolution 2014-15C

Resolution to Approve New Degree in Bachelor of Science in Systems Biology

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. It is one of several new interdisciplinary degrees coming through the College of Science. This new degree will be able to leverage a lot of existing resources in this area such as VBI and the Fralin Life Science Institute. This will allow an undergraduate degree in this area. This degree will be housed in the Academy of Integrated Science. Other degrees in the academy include nanoscience, neuroscience, and computational modeling and data analytics. The academy provides a structure for student advising.

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

Resolution 2014-15D

Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Science, and Environment

Dr. Stephen Martin presented the resolution for first reading. This program has never seen significant enrollment and has fallen below the threshold set by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for the continuation of the degree, so it is being discontinued.

## **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  
May 14, 2014  
September 10, 2014
- Commission on Research  
May 14, 2014

## **5. Announcement of Discussion Topics**

Discussion topics have been scheduled as follows:

### **October 20, 2014**

Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) – next steps, and innovative practices in teaching and learning (Dale Pike)

### **November 3, 2014**

Relationship between the Foundation and the University (John Dooley, Dwight Shelton)

### **December 1, 2014**

Budget process and capital planning process (Dwight Shelton)

## **6. Discussion**

Benefits for Same-Sex Married Couples - President Sands called on Dr. Hal Irvin to comment on today's action by the U.S. Supreme Court and its effect on Virginia Tech employees. Dr. Irvin explained that the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to decline to review the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in *Bostic v. Schaefer* means same-sex marriage is now legal in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The university is awaiting guidance from the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management regarding the process for same-sex married couples to apply for benefits. There is no effect for employees who have domestic partners; domestic partners remain ineligible for benefits. Dr. DePauw noted, however, that the Supreme Court's action has no effect on graduate students receiving assistantships because the private company providing their health insurance already allowed them to insure domestic partners. Dr. Sands indicated that the Supreme Court's action will now enable Virginia Tech to recruit those who are directly affected by the court's action.

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m.