

# University Council Minutes

September 18, 2000

Present: Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), Earving Blythe, James Bohland, Gregory Brown, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Don Kenney (for Eileen Hitchingham), Janet Johnson, Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Jennie Reilly, Minnis Ridenour, Mode Johnson (for Raymond Smoot), Hap Bonham (for Richard Sorensen), Charles Steger, Bill Stephenson, Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer, James Martin, Leon Geyer, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, Marquee King, Steven Thompson, Joe Hunnings, Wayne Durham, Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Slimane Adjerid (for Rebecca Crittenden), Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Pete Martens, Delbert Jones, Benjamin Poe, Tracey Slotta, David Fowler, Chris DeVecchio, Brian Montgomery (for Candace Wiltshire), Mac McCreery, Christina Coukos

Absent: Paul Knox, Terry Herdman, Skip Fuhrman, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Donna Cassell, Anita Haney, Debbie Wilson, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan

Guests: Ron Daniel, David Ford, Marvin Foushee, Dixie Reaves

## 1. Adoption of Agenda

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

## 2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of May 1, 2000

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the May 1, 2000, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (/)

## 3. Introductions

Dr. Steger introduced Dr. James Bohland, Interim Provost; Ms. Judy Davis, Executive Secretary Senior in the President's Office; Ms. Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant to the President; Ms. Kim O'Rourke, Assistant to the President; and Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Flanagan, Vice President for Development and University Relations. Dr. Steger indicated that Ms. Carole Nickerson, Executive Assistant to the President, would be retiring October 1, 2000. Dr. Steger expressed his appreciation to Dr. Meszaros for her five and one-half years of dedicated work on behalf of the University. Dr. Meszaros has assumed the William E. Lavery Professorship in Human Development in the College of Human Resources and Education.

Immediately following the University Council meeting there will be a workshop for those interested in an overview of the University Governance System. The workshop will include a historical insight of the governance system as well as a review of the organizational structure of the system.

## 4. New Business — First Reading

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
Resolution 2000-2001A, Resolution Regarding Minors

Steven Thompson, Chair of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies introduced Dixie Reaves, Chair, Academic Policies Subcommittee of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, who presented this resolution for first reading. Professor Thompson noted for the record that the exact wording of the resolution should be taken from the actual minutes of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies. There were discrepancies in the version of the resolution that was distributed to Council separately.

Dr. Reaves indicated that this resolution deals with minors versus concentrations. Under current University policy a department must offer a major in a subject area in order to offer a minor in the same subject. If the department does not offer a major in a specific subject area they may offer a concentration. Completion of a concentration can demand a level of rigor equal to that of a minor. Those outside academia typically have a better understanding of requirements for a minor. The Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies proposes that minors no longer be restricted to academic departments, schools, colleges or the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies that offer a major.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
Resolution 2000-2001B, Resolution Regarding Pass/Fail Policy

Dr. Reaves indicated that this resolution deals with the pass/fail policy. Since the current University requirement states that a student must have a 2.0 to be in good academic standing it is proposed that the requirement for the pass/fail policy require a minimum 2.0 instead of the 2.5 currently required under the policy. All other restrictions under the current pass/fail policy will remain the same.

Sam Hicks stated his concern that a student with only a 2.0 GPA may not have the ability and/or motivation to successfully accomplish the goals of the pass/fail option; therefore, he was opposed to reducing the current 2.5 GPA requirement.

## 5. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

- o Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, April 6, 2000
- o Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, April 12, 2000
- o Commission on Outreach, April 13, 2000
- o Commission on Student Affairs, April 20, 2000
- o Commission on Student Affairs, April 27, 2000
- o Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, April 24, 2000

Leon Geyer, Chair Commission on Faculty Affairs, withdrew the minutes for the May 5, 2000 meeting since suggested changes to the minutes did not come from the Commission. He indicated that the Commission would review the changes and the minutes would be brought to the next meeting of University Council.

## 6. For Information Only

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for May 6, 1999 and August 11, 1999, were distributed for information only.

## 7. Announcements

### Reports from Commission Chairs

Introduction of commission chairs and report from the chairs regarding their activities for the year. Dr. Steger encouraged Council members to contact the Commission Chairs with comments, questions or issues to be introduced into the governance system early in the year so that deliberations could begin in a timely manner.

### Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs - Pat Hyer

- CAPFA is in the process of recruiting a chair; Dr. Hyer gave an overview of the business of the Commission.
- Responsible for conducting panel hearings in the case of grievances as well as conducting elections.
- CAPFA follows some of the same issues as the Commission on Faculty Affairs and the Intellectual Property Committee.

### Classified Staff Affairs — Chair James Martin

- Lack of staff representation on the Board of Visitors.
- Supervisor training during implementation of the new state pay plan.
- Staff development under the new pay plan that is basically skill-based.
- Support and promote the spouse and dependents scholarship fund.
- Parking situation on campus.
- Security and privacy of email.
- Intellectual property policy of the university as it regards classified staff members.

### Faculty Affairs — Chair Leon Geyer

- Responsibility of department heads to assist faculty members in meeting expectations; written feedback in evaluations as well as possibility of alternative ways to trigger reviews of department heads before the five-year review.
- Faculty search procedures.
- Conflict of commitment.
- Revision of intellectual property concerns.
- Conflict of interest and implementation of the new policy.

### Outreach — Chair Irene Leech

- Working to implement vision statement for commission and strategic action steps.
- Symposium on Outreach and marketing efforts.
- Comparable ways to measure faculty outreach activities.
- Salary increases for cooperative extension agents who are A/P faculty.

### Graduate Studies and Policies — Chair Virginia Buechner-Maxwell

- New MS&P degree program in macromolecular sciences.
- Review new graduate courses.
- Degree Requirements, Standards, Criteria and Academic Policies Committee (DRSCAP) of CGS&P will review policies related to graduate students.

### Research — Len Peters for Chair Terry Herdman

- Intellectual Property Committee reports to the Commission on Research on suggested revised policy to the Intellectual Properties Policy.
- Issues associated with research faculty appointments in regard to restricted versus regular appointments as well as how the overall research faculty-title series is handled.
- Conflict of Interest standing committee that reports to the President has been established. Lud Eng is the Chair. COR will monitor the progress of the committee.

### Student Affairs — Chair Marqueea King

- Students concerned about how the University is educating students on University Governance (how it is structured and how it actually works).
- Overlapping programs with the offices of Multicultural Affairs, EO/AA, Dean of Students Office. Better way to coordinate efforts and support students (particularly minority students).
- Calendar scheduling (fall breaks, student holidays and lack of acknowledgment on campus).

### Undergraduate Studies and Policies — Chair Steven Thompson

- Monitoring history requirements.
- Issues with SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).
- Review ongoing policies on a continuing basis (i.e. freshman rule policy).
- Issues dealing with education electronic media; course requirements and the funding of equipment; questions regarding the library and

electronic media.

University Support — Chair Joe Hunnings

- Faculty/staff access to parking on football weekends.
- Childcare needs of university employees.
- Future use and accessibility of wireless communications on campus.
- Report card of banner system.
- On-campus long distance telephone rate charges.

Dr. Steger emphasized that University Council is a policy body of the institution. The objective is to focus on the policy decisions and policy actions. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't answer questions about administrative procedures and decisions but it is important to keep those sorted out as we look at the types of resolutions that we progress through the system during the year.

Mitzi Vernon, President of Faculty Senate, commented on the agenda for the Faculty Senate for the coming year. Items of interest will be the conflict of interest policy, the intellectual property policy and involvement in the search for the provost.

Dr. Steger indicated that letters have been sent out asking people to serve on the Provost Search Committee. We have worked very hard with the Chair, Dr. Eyre, to put together a committee that we believe represents the various constituencies at the university.

Dr. Eyre stated that the response to the call to serve on the committee was very positive. The committee will meet for the first time on September 27. The composition of the committee will be published in the Spectrum in the near future.

Dr. Steger noted that the University has retained an executive search firm that specializes in the academic enterprise to assist in the search for the Provost. Increasingly, the top candidates that you want to fill these positions do not read the Chronicle weekly to search the ads. Therefore, it is desirable to have a network of individuals and to be able to carry out at least the initial inquiries very confidentially. In the past we have used search firms for a couple of positions. The most recent was for the search for the Vice President for Development and University Relations. Based on that experience and the skill that the firm brings to the task and given the stakes that we want to make the very best choice, we think it is a wise investment that facilitates the process. When final candidates are identified they will come to campus to be interviewed and there will be significant opportunity for interaction with the university community.

Dr. Steger noted that it is going to be a busy year. We have a lot of things planned for the university. He is very encouraged about the prospects for Virginia Tech in the future.

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

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*Virginia Tech Governance Information*

**URL: </uc0001/ucm00-09-18.html>**

## October 2, 2000

Present: Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), James Bohland, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Paul Knox, Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Jennie Reilly, Minnis Ridenour, Raymond Smoot, Robert Sumichrast (for Richard Sorensen), Malcolm McPherson (for Bill Stephenson), Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer, James Martin, Leon Geyer, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, Marquee King, Steven Thompson, Joe Hunnings, Wayne Durham, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Anita Haney, Delbert Jones, Benjamin Poe, Tracey Slotta, David Fowler, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Chris DeVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Brian Montgomery (for Candace Wiltshire), Mac McCreery, Christina Coukos

Absent: Earving Blythe, Gregory Brown, Charles Steger, Terry Herdman, Skip Fuhrman, Jeryl Jones, Rebecca Crittenden, Ashley Marshall, Pete Martens, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson,

Guests: Ron Daniel, David Ford, Carole Nickerson, Theresa Seidlinger

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

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

### 2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of September 18, 2000

Dr. Bohland noted that the amended minutes from the September 18, 2000, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. There were two small points of clarification to the original minutes. It was noted that under New Business regarding Resolution 2000-2001B a paragraph was added that stated the opposition to the resolution by a member of Council. Under Reports from the Commission on Faculty Affairs, a clarification was made regarding alternative ways to trigger reviews of department heads before the five-year review. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (/)

### 3. New Business – First Reading

#### Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies Resolution 2000-2001A,

#### Resolution Regarding New Degree Programs: M.S. and Ph.D. in Macromolecular Science and Engineering

Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Chair of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, presented the resolution for first reading. These degree programs are a joint effort among several departments. The complete description of the programs is available for review through Dr. John Eaton's office.

### 4. Ongoing Business – Second Reading

#### Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Resolution 2000-2001A,

#### Resolution Regarding Minors

Steven Thompson, Chair of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, presented the resolution regarding minors for second reading. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

#### Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Resolution 2000-2001B,

#### Resolution Regarding Pass/Fail Policy

Steven Thompson, Chair of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, presented the resolution regarding pass/fail policy for second reading. The heart of the resolution requests a change in the minimum GPA required for undergraduate students to take a pass/fail course. The current pass/fail policy requires a 2.5 overall GPA to take courses for p/f credit. Resolution 2000-2001B lowers the required GPA to 2.0, which is consistent with the GPA required to maintain good academic standing at the university. A motion was made for approval and seconded.

Opposition was noted on the basis that lowering the GPA requirement would not accomplish the intended goal of p/f courses, which is to encourage exploration of subject areas. Lowering the GPA requirement to 2.0 would put a lot of burden on students who have difficulty being self-motivated.

An undergraduate student commented in favor of the resolution stating that the lowered GPA requirement would give more students the opportunity to take courses they are interested in to gain additional knowledge without investing a lot of time. Although opposed to lowering the GPA requirement in theory, graduate students commented that the university should be consistent with its policies. Since the GPA requirement for good academic standing is 2.0 the GPA required to take a course p/f should be consistent.

A question was raised whether or not a study has been done to determine how many more students would want to enroll in classes on a p/f basis if the GPA were lowered. Often the number of seats in a class is sometimes an issue. Professor Thompson indicated that a study has not been done.

The motion was approved by majority vote.

### 5. Council approved a packet of Commission minutes comprised of:

- \* Commission on Classified Staff Affairs

May 10, 2000

\* Commission on Faculty Affairs

May 5, 2000

\* Commission on Faculty Affairs

September 8, 2000

\* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

April 19, 2000

\* Commission on Outreach

May 11, 2000 (see clarification below)

\* Commission on Student Affairs

September 14, 2000

\* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

September 11, 2000

Dr. Bohland sought to clarify two items included in the Commission on Outreach minutes. Dr. Bohland noted that approval of the minutes of the Commission does not confer approval of the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan would have to come before University Council as a separate document.

Dr. Bohland questioned the intent of the statement in the minutes that the revised Tenure and Promotion Guidelines were approved. Irene Leech, Chair of the Commission on Outreach, indicated that the Commission was hoping to get some changes made in the University Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure regarding recognition of contributions to the outreach mission. The Commission reached agreement on changes to be proposed to the University guidelines.

6. **For Information Only**

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for June 22, 2000 were distributed for information only.

7. **Announcements**

Kim O'Rourke noted that the discussion topics submitted by Council members are currently under review. Some of these items will be discussed at future University Council meetings.

Per a suggestion from one of the commission chairs, several copies of a parliamentary procedure book will be purchased and will be available for check out through the President's Office.

Dr. Bohland thanked Pat Hyer for her role in presenting the Governance Workshop after the last University Council meeting. Many positive comments were received.

Dr. Bohland noted that due to the timing of the West Virginia football game on Thursday, October 12, the staff could be released at 4:00 p.m. He emphasized that classes are not cancelled.

Carole Nickerson indicated that the composition of the Provost Search Committee should have appeared in last week's Spectrum. The information will probably be sent out electronically to the campus community. The committee has already held its first meeting and the position announcement is in the process of being finalized.

Lud Eng is Chair of Committee on Conflict of Interest. Comments concerning the process that has occurred involving the development of procedures may be made to Dr. Eng.

Dr. Bohland adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke

Assistant to the President

/jcd

## October 16, 2000

Present: Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), James Bohland, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Margaret Zelinski (for Elizabeth Flanagan), Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Max Stephenson (for Paul Knox), Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Jennie Reilly, Lisa Wilkes (for Minnis Ridenour), Raymond Smoot, Hap Bonham (for Richard Sorensen), Bill Stephenson, Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer, James Martin, Leon Geyer, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, Marquee King, Joe Hunnings, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, Benjamin Poe, David Fowler, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Brian Montgomery (for Candace Wiltshire), Mac McCreery, Christina Coukos

Absent: Earving Blythe, Gregory Brown, Peter Eyre, Charles Steger, Terry Herdman, Steven Thompson, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Jeryl Jones, Bob Tracy, Rebecca Crittenden, Suzanne Murrmann, Pete Martens, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, Tracey Slotta, Brandy Ellen Cowing,

Guests: David Ford, Carole Nickerson, Fred Lee, John Wilson

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

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

### 2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of

#### October 2, 2000

Dr. Bohland noted that the minutes from the October 2, 2000, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (/)

### 3. New Business – First Reading

#### Commission on Research Resolution 2000-2001A,

#### Resolution Regarding “Regular” Appointments for Special Research Faculty

Pat Hyer introduced the resolution in the absence of Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research. The resolution came forward from the Task Force on Special Research Faculty. There are 350-400 employees at the University who are called special research faculty. These employees carry titles such as research associates, senior research associates, research scientists or post-doctoral candidates. The vast majority of these faculty are on restricted contracts (contracts that have a beginning and ending date) primarily because they are funded by sponsored grants or contracts. The grant or contract is not a permanent source of income to the University; it is a temporary source and it may or it may not be renewed.

The Task Force was approached by one of the center directors and asked to help resolve problems associated with the recruitment of highly skilled talent, particularly in the high technology field. Recruiting employees for fields where there were many openings and few people to fill them was often difficult due to the beginning and ending dates of contracts, which were never more than one year, and the restrictive language in the contract that made continuous employment seem tenuous. The center director also indicated that often the desirable talent is foreign-born and that the opportunity to be able to help support an application for permanent residency or a green card was negated by the language of our contracts. A permanent residency application must designate that the job is a secure, permanent job in order to gain approval by the INS.

The resolution proposes that under certain circumstances a research center or program, which has a stable, varied source of funding, could gain permission to conduct a search for a “regular” (or renewable) position. There are several areas where salary obligations may be incurred for regular employees that are not incurred for restricted employees; especially sick leave and annual leave payout. A “regular” employee earns six months of paid sick leave from the time of entry. Restricted employees earn sick leave on an accrual basis. “Regular” faculty members are entitled to receive payment of accumulated annual leave upon termination of employment while restricted faculty do not. Additionally, “regular faculty members who have been at Virginia Tech for a minimum of two years receive one year’s notice of non-reappointment. For financial reasons, this resolution proposes that these special research faculty would receive a maximum of six months’ notice instead of one year.

Under special circumstances, the proposal would allow a center or program that is able to financially afford to support these conditions to request permission to conduct a search for “regular” faculty members. Determination of whether resources are available to support this request would be by application submitted through the department head, the dean and the research division. The presumption is that there would only be a few of these types of searches. A center or program could have a mix of “regular” and restricted faculty.

A center director spoke in favor of the proposal but requested clarification of the wording which states, “. . . the international faculty member must have been selected as the ONLY qualified candidate in a national search; no other minimally qualified U.S. worker was available.” He indicated that wording he received from the INS regulations stated that the individual must be “more qualified than any U.S. worker who applied for the job.” He thought that the language used in the proposal was unnecessarily stringent. Dr. Hyer will add a clarifying sentence that suggests that given current INS rulings, this is our interpretation of the policy. There is no intent for Virginia Tech to be more stringent than the INS in this regard.

A question was raised whether this would impact the maximum employment level that the state imposes on the university. Dr. Hyer stated that it would not since the vast number of employees are on sponsored dollars. In rare instances, there might be a situation where a center or program might have to move a “regular” faculty member temporarily to state salary funds if there is a brief lapse in sponsored funding.

### 4. Ongoing Business – Second Reading

#### Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies Resolution 2000-2001A,

#### Resolution Regarding New Degree Programs: M.S. and Ph.D. in Macromolecular Science and Engineering

Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Chair of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, presented the resolution for second reading. Judy Riffle and

Garth Wilkes spearheaded the effort. The proposal notes that the creation of new graduate programs in macromolecular science and engineering would enhance the recruitment of outstanding graduate students, increase institutional competitiveness for major polymer research contracts, and enhance employment opportunities for graduates and research associates.

A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

5. **Council approved the following Commission minutes:**

- \* Commission on University Support

September 11, 2000

6. **Discussion**

## Oak Ridge National Lab Consortium

### Leonard Peters

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), founded in 1942 during the Manhattan Project, is the largest of the U.S. Department of Energy's five multi-program energy laboratories. With a staff of approximately 4,500 employees, its current annual budget is in excess of \$550 million. Virtually all of the work that goes on at ORNL is non-classified. Classified work takes place away from the main part of the laboratory. This discussion centers on the non-classified activities.

ORNL has special competencies in six research areas:

- \* Neutron science and technology
- \* Advanced materials synthesis and characterization
- \* Energy production and end use
- \* Biological and environmental sciences
- \* Computational science and advanced computing
- \* Instrumentation, control and measurement science.

ORNL was originally operated by the University of Chicago and then by several major companies. The most recent management and operation contractor was Lockheed-Martin. The Department of Energy (DOE) wanted a closer alliance with the university community. Under the assistance of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), six universities were selected to be "core universities." The core universities include Duke University, Florida State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, NC State University, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. In addition to the university partners there are also corporate subcontractors. They are Duke Engineering, BWX, and Lockheed-Martin Energy Systems (Y-12). A five-year contract began on April 1, 2000. The corporation is set up to protect the core universities from any liability that would result from potential legal action against the overall corporation.

Opportunities associated with involvement in ORNL include:

- \* Advice on research direction – committees and Board of Governors (President Steger is the University's representative to the Board)
- \* Joint faculty positions
- \* Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies (ORCAS)
- Intensive research in topical areas
- Courses on research-emergent topics
- Courses to grow and extend ORNL capabilities
- Shared courses among universities
- \* Streamlined business model for funding
- \* Short faculty visits program
- \* Student internships and graduate student appointments
- \* Joint Institutes – Materials Synthesis, Biological Sciences, Computational Sciences
- \* Tech transfer enhancements

ORNL – Realistic Strategy

- \* Use ORNL as catalyst for building collaborative programs internally, across core universities and with ORNL staff
- \* Use unique facilities and expertise at ORNL to enhance capabilities and attract new people

- \* Bring programs to ORNL and let them help build upon and expand what we have
- \* Use entrée to Battelle and other universities to develop and “sell” research; Battelle is involved in the operation of several other laboratories in the DOE system (Brookhaven and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory)
- \* Use ORNL to strengthen academic programs; to provide opportunities for students to participate in the laboratories

ORNL Activities to Date: Just after the announcement of the award, a briefing was given to research administrators at the ORNL in May 2000. A number of Virginia Tech faculty attended workshops held in August 2000. Last week the ORNL management team (including the director of the laboratory, who is an alumnus) visited Virginia Tech. They were interested in the way Virginia Tech has structured the Corporate Research Center. ORNL is initiating a \$200 million renovation and building expansion program that is a combination of private funding from Battelle, state funds from the state of Tennessee, and federal funds from the Department of Energy. They are looking for unique and novel ways to accomplish this task. Initial contacts have been made in several research areas and joint faculty appointments are beginning to emerge. Core universities participated in Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) review teams at ORNL.

Common research interests between ORNL and Virginia Tech are very critical. Research at ORNL includes:

- \* Neutron science and technology
- \* Advanced materials synthesis and characterization
- \* Energy production and end use
- \* Biological and environmental sciences
- \* Computational science and advanced computing
- \* Instrumentation, control and measurement science

Virginia Tech’s corresponding cross cutting initiatives include:

- \* Materials
- \* Environmental sciences and energy systems
- \* Transportation
- \* Biosciences and biotechnology
- \* Computing, information and communications technology

When asked how much money is involved in this project, Dr. Peters indicated that our rewards would emerge in terms of opportunities and advantages. For example, the University of Tennessee (not a “core” university, but located in close proximity to ORNL) has realized sponsored projects in excess of \$20 million. Outreach components include VT transfer opportunities through the Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies in the form of credit and non-credit work. Additionally, some of the outreach activities that Oak Ridge has been involved with in the past have been K-12 math and science education.

Management at ORNL is very pleased with Virginia Tech’s involvement in the activities. We are looking forward to new opportunities and other ideas. Any suggestions, comments or questions may be directed to John Wilson, the liaison between ORNL and Virginia Tech.

Dr. Bohland adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O’Rourke

Assistant to the President

/jcd



## November 13, 2000

Present: Charles Steger, Bob Bates, Pat Hyer (for James Bohland), Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Lu Ann Gaskill (for Janet Johnson), Bob Schubert (for Paul Knox), Kim O'Rourke, John Eaton (for Leonard Peters), Minnis Ridenour, Hap Bonham (for Richard Sorensen), Bill Stephenson, Tom Tillar, Susan Angle, James Martin, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, Marquee King, Frank Weiner (for Steven Thompson), Molly Cox (for Joe Hunnings), Wayne Durham, Jeryl Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Slimane Adjerid (for Rebecca Crittenden), Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Pete Martens (by phone), Althea Aschmann, Debbie Wilson, Delbert Jones, Tracey Slotta, David Fowler, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Brian Montgomery (for Candace Wiltshire), Mac McCreery, Christina Coukos

Absent: Earving Blythe, Gregory Brown, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Jennie Reilly, Raymond Smoot, Andy Swiger, Leon Geyer, Terry Herdman, Skip Fuhrman, Tim Pratt, Ashley Marshall, Donna Cassell, Benjamin Poe, Chris DeVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan

Guests: Carole Nickerson, Bruno Sobral

### 1. **Adoption of Agenda**

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

### 2. **Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of**

#### **October 16, 2000**

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the October 16, 2000, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (/)

### 3. **Ongoing Business – Second Reading**

#### **Commission on Research Resolution 2000-2001A,**

#### **Resolution Regarding “Regular” Appointments for Special Research Faculty**

Pat Hyer presented the resolution for second reading in the absence of Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research. She gave a summary covering the main points of the resolution. Dr. Hyer noted that based on a discussion of the resolution that occurred at the first reading a modification has been made to item #5. The language has been changed to indicate that the hiring unit should work closely with the Graduate School to ensure compliance with current INS regulations.

A question was raised regarding whether approval of these types of appointments would jeopardize funding for staff increases. Both Dr. Hyer and Dr. Steger responded that staff increases would not be endangered. Classified staff increases are mandated by the state.

A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

### 4. **Council approved the following Commission minutes:**

\* Commission on Classified Staff Affairs

September 27, 2000

\* Commission on Faculty Affairs

September 22, 2000

\* Commission on Faculty Affairs

October 13, 2000

\* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

September 20, 2000

\* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

October 4, 2000

\* Commission on Outreach

September 14, 2000

\* Commission on Student Affairs

September 28, 2000

\* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

September 25, 2000

October 9, 2000

5. **For Information Only**

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for September 28, 2000 were distributed for information only.

6. **Announcements**

Dr. Steger will testify before the Arts and Higher Education subcommittee of the General Assembly House Education Committee this week concerning proposed legislation sponsored by Del. Jay O'Brien that would limit out-of-state enrollment of incoming classes at Virginia's four-year public institutions to 33 percent. In the past, the Boards of Visitors have been charged with setting enrollment policies. Virginia Tech is one of four institutions – including the University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, and James Madison University – which appear to be the focus of this issue. (The proposed bill would exempt VMI, Norfolk State, and Virginia State University.) A key issue is that the number of students graduating from Virginia high schools will be growing dramatically in the next 6-8 years. Virginia Tech has accepted over 1,500 students since the early '90s for which we have received no funding. Out-of-state students, who pay the full cost of their education, are a vital source of financial support for Virginia Tech and the other schools.

Minnis Ridenour discussed how the state's current funding process for higher education works. The House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Finance Committee and higher education are actively involved in formulating a new system that will be based on enrollments/projects. Mr. Ridenour has played a key leadership role in the state in helping to shape the new system. Dr. Steger and Mr. Ridenour are optimistic that the new system will generate additional faculty positions and funding.

7. **Discussion**

## Virginia Bioinformatics Institute

### Bruno Sobral

Bruno Sobral, Director of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and Professor of Plant Physiology, Pathology and Weed Science, gave a presentation on the Institute. Dr. Sobral, who holds a Ph.D. in Genetics from Iowa State University, came to Virginia Tech from the National Center for Genome Resources.

Dr. Sobral explained that one definition of bioinformatics is the use of Information Technology (IT) to acquire, store, share, analyze and display large amounts of complex biological information. The coupling of biology with data management and supercomputers is taking IT to new levels. Biology has replaced the physical sciences as the new driver for IT.

One example of high-tech IT is IBM's Blue Gene, a \$100 million dollar hardware project to resolve how proteins fold. This computer is 40 times faster than all of the world's top supercomputers put together and is capable of downloading the entire Internet in one second! Even with these amazing capabilities, the Blue Gene will require one year to compute how a 300 amino acid protein folds! Partnerships between companies, such as the one between IBM and Incyte (for software), will be critical in this emerging field.

Biologists must deal with many variables as they answer fundamental research questions. Some of the structures and mechanisms for conducting research include: software tools and structures, computing and connectivity requirements, data represented, data types and sources, as well as the volume of the data.

The National Research Council is the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering in providing services to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities. NRC faces eight imposing challenges. There are four immediate areas of concern:

1. **Infectious disease and the environment**
  - To prevent outbreaks of infectious disease there is a need to understand how pathogens are affected by changing environments
2. **Biodiversity and ecosystems functioning**
  - Factors affecting biodiversity and how biodiversity relates to ecosystem function
3. **Hydrologic forecasting**
  - Predicting changes in freshwater resources and environment caused by floods, droughts, sedimentation, and contamination
4. **Land-use dynamics**
  - Human alteration of Earth's surface as it affects global climate change and reduced biodiversity

Dr. Sobral explained that when the data was in incomplete sequences, the types and sources of data were fewer, and the volume of data was less, then the computing and connectivity requirements were low and there were many software tools. Conversely, today when multiple databases must be integrated, the types and sources of data are numerous, and there is a large volume of data, the computing and connectivity requirements are high yet there are very few software tools and structures.

The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute is a group of entrepreneurial scientists tying together data with computers to yield new knowledge. VBI was established to increase knowledge of plant and animal genomics and to develop tools for interpreting other genomics information. VBI will initially focus on the molecular, cellular, and environmental determinants of infectious disease, particularly with an agricultural/environmental thrust. In the new information economy, VBI can also play a role in economic development.

The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute is located in temporary quarters in Building X at the Corporate Research Center. Dr. Sobral can be reached by email at [sobral@vt.edu](mailto:sobral@vt.edu) or by phone at 231-2500. Dr. Clark Tibbetts, Associate Director of VBI, can be reached by email at [tibbetts@vt.edu](mailto:tibbetts@vt.edu).

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke

Assistant to the President

/jcd

**University Council Minutes  
December 4, 2000**

Present: Charles Steger, Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), James Bohland, Gregory Brown, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Janet Johnson, Paul Knox, Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Jennie Reilly, Lisa Wilkes (for Minnis Ridenour), Raymond Smoot, Richard Sorensen, Andy Swiger, Susan Angle, James Martin, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, David Russell (for Terry Herdman), Marquea King, Steven Thompson, Joe Hunnings, Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Slimane Adjerid (for Rebecca Crittenden), Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Pete Martens (by phone), Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, David Fowler, Brandy Ellen Cowing

Absent: Earving Blythe, Eileen Hitchingham, Bill Stephenson, Tom Tillar, Leon Geyer, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Kamal Rojjani, Jack Davis, Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, Benjamin Poe, Tracey Slotta, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire, Mac McCreery, Christina Coukos

Guests: Carole Nickerson, Pat Hyer

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

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

2. **Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of November 13, 2000**

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the November 13, 2000, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (<http://intra.vt.edu/govern/>)

3. **New Business – First Reading**

**Commission on Outreach Resolution 2000-2001A  
Resolution Regarding Outreach Vision Statement and Strategic Action Steps,  
2000-2001**

Irene Leech, Chair of the Commission on Outreach, presented the resolution for first reading. The Outreach Vision Statement and Strategic Action Steps were approved by the Commission on Outreach on May 11, 2000 and they were reviewed by University Council at the October 2, 2000 meeting as part of the minutes from the Commission on Outreach.

A question was raised as to how the Commission on Outreach intends to implement the Strategic Action Steps. Dr. Leech indicated that there was a change approved in the promotion and tenure guidelines last spring that helps to separate and highlight outreach activities. Additionally, within the Commission on Outreach, a rewards committee is charged with the responsibility of identifying ways to acknowledge and reward outreach activities. There has also been discussion of offering programs on a college-by-college basis to assist faculty with this process. Other suggestions are welcome.

Clark Jones, Vice Provost for Outreach, stated that the recent revision to the promotion and tenure guidelines includes a section on outreach. He indicated that implementation of the guidelines and getting this information to the academic colleges and departments can be done primarily through the Commission on Outreach and the Outreach Council. The Outreach Council is comprised of associate deans from each college.

Dr. Steger suggested that it might be advantageous for the Commission on Outreach to seek endorsement from University Council for the Vision Statement without including the Strategic Action Steps as part of the document. This would enable the Commission to make future changes to the Strategic Action Steps without seeking approval from University Council.

**4. Council approved the following Commission minutes:**

- \* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
October 18, 2000
- \* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
November 1, 2000
- \* Commission on Outreach  
October 12, 2000
- \* Commission on Research  
September 13, 2000
- \* Commission on Research  
September 27, 2000
- \* Commission on Research  
October 11, 2000
- \* Commission on Student Affairs  
October 26, 2000
- \* Commission on Student Affairs  
November 9, 2000
- \* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
October 23, 2000

**5. For Information Only**

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for October 19, 2000 and November 9, 2000 were distributed for information only.

**6. Announcements**

In answer to a question from the audience, Dr. Steger explained the reason for the change in title for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The change in title stems from a desire to lessen confusion over the duties of the position.

The Provost is the Chief Academic Officer of the University and one of the most important appointments to be made at the university in the coming years.

Dr. Steger commented briefly on the recent contract negotiations discussed in the media for Head Football Coach, Frank Beamer. A comprehensive analysis of compensation across the top programs in America was completed. Dr. Steger is comfortable that the contract offered to Coach Beamer is in line with the salaries of the coaches of other top programs across the country.

## 7. Discussion

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act and Employment Virginia J. Reilly, Interim Director, Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action (EOAA)**

Dr. Reilly's discussion of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) included information about the availability of training programs across campus that are designed to update people on the ADA. The training is beneficial for anyone who supervises employees. The program is designed for a full day of training; a shorter version (one-half day) is also available. The full training packet includes scenarios that are developed from experiences at Virginia Tech with employees as well as updated information from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Input on putting together the packet was received from faculty, students and staff with disabilities, the Dean of Students Office, Personnel Services, Residential and Dining Programs, Physical Plant, the University Architect's Office, and faculty serving on the ADA and EOAA Committee. The intent of the training is to provide participants with an in-depth awareness of the ADA and the ability to train their own staff about ADA issues and staff development.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and activities of state and local government. Dr. Reilly made reference to two important policies that are available on the web: VT Policy 178 discusses our beliefs about accommodations for people with disabilities (<http://www.vt.edu:10021/admin/eoaa/index.html>) and VT Policy 4075 outlines the procedures for assisting individuals (<http://www.vt.edu/admin/policies/4000/4075.html>).

The number of people with disabilities on campus has increased over the years. The Dean of Students Office is currently serving approximately 400 students with disabilities per semester (approximately 600 students have documented disabilities; however all of them do not request accommodations). The EO/AA office receives approximately 100 contacts per month (faculty/staff calling with questions or concerns related to the ADA). A Special Services Lab (located in Torgersen Hall) assists approximately 100 faculty, staff and students per month who need assistive technology. The facility is geared toward providing equal access to all faculty, staff, and students. Cutting edge technology in the lab includes: screen enlargement software; document scanners and text input conversion; electronic text to speech software; large print and braille embosser; alternative input devices, keyboards, and trackballs; voice recognition software and recorders; adjustable room lighting and adjustable workstations. A half-time assistive technology coordinator and a full-time lab manager are employed in the lab. Virginia Tech has received national recognition as one of the best special services labs in the nation.

Disability can be defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, being regarded as having such an impairment or a family member with a disability. The majority of individuals being served on campus have invisible disabilities (learning disabilities, psychological disabilities, medical conditions that require accommodations).

One objective of the ADA training is to provide information to managers/supervisors on how the ADA relates to their job. The bulk of the training focuses on workplace accommodation guidelines. Secondly, it is important to familiarize participants with the terminology, intent and requirements of the ADA; VT policies that relate to the ADA/disability issues including confidentiality; the relationship of the ADA to other state and federal mandates and policies; and to identify resources and support on campus and in the community.

No individual should be excluded from full participation in any aspect of the Virginia Tech community by virtue of their disability. Four areas of equal access must be considered: the physical environment, programs, information (such as web pages and distance learning), and attitudes of acceptance. One of the biggest areas of concern at this time is electronic ramps. Baseline standards have been developed for all web pages. Everything that carries the Virginia Tech name has to be accessible. Training for accessibility covers areas such as:

- Physical workplace
- Publications
- Signage
- Internal communication
- External communication
- Education and certification programs
- Meetings and conventions

Referrals for individuals with disabilities are as follows:

- Students – Dean of Students, Services for Students with Disabilities (Susan Angle, Assistant Dean of Students)
- Classified Employees – Personnel Services (Muriel Flynn)
- Faculty – EOAA, ADA Coordinator (Virginia Reilly, Interim Director EOAA)
- Extension – Virginia Cooperative Extension (David Travis, Assistant to the Director)

Individuals may contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action for further information or to schedule training on the Americans with Disabilities Act and Employment.

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd

University Council Minutes  
February 5, 2001

Present: James Bohland (Chair), Bob Bates, Gregory Brown, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Janet Johnson, Paul Knox, Kim O'Rourke, Jennie Reilly, Lisa Wilkes (for Minnis Ridenour), Mode Johnson (for Raymond Smoot), Richard Sorensen, Bill Stephenson, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), Linda Correll (for James Martin), Leon Geyer, Hunter Pittman (for Virginia Buechner-Maxwell), Irene Leech, Terry Herdman, Marqueea King, Steven Thompson, Joe Hunnings, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Jeryl Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Mitzi Vernon, Jack Davis, Rebecca Crittenden, Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Pete Martens (by phone), Dan Dolan, Ashley Marshall, Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, Alexandria Graves, David Fowler, Christina Coukos

Absent: Charles Steger Andy Swiger, Earving Blythe, Landrum Cross, Eileen Hitchingham, Leonard Peters, Tim Pratt, Bob Tracy, John Hillison, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, Benjamin Poe, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire

Guests: Rosemary Blieszner, David Ford, Pat Hyer, Joe Merola,

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of December 4, 2000

Dr. Bohland noted that the minutes from the December 4, 2000, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB.  
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3. Ongoing Business - Second Reading

Commission on Outreach Resolution 2000-2001A  
Resolution Regarding Outreach Vision Statement,  
2000-2001

Irene Leech, Chair of the Commission on Outreach, presented the resolution for second reading. Dr. Leech handed out a revision of the resolution. The point of the resolution was to have on record for the University what the vision for the outreach program is in a general sense. The resolution was reworded to delete the action steps that were too specific for the intent of the resolution. The vision statement is all that is included in the resolution. There was no discussion. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

3. Council approved the following Commission minutes:

\* Commission on Faculty Affairs  
November 17, 2000

\* Commission on Faculty Affairs  
December 1, 2000

\* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
November 15, 2000

\* Commission on Research



- \* November 15, 2000
- \* Commission on Research  
December 13, 2000
- \* Commission on Student Affairs  
November 30, 2000
- \* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
November 13, 2000
- \* Commission on University Support  
October 9, 2000

3. For Information Only

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for December 11, 2000 and January 8, 2001 were distributed for information only.

3. Announcements

Graduate School - A question was raised concerning the length of time it takes for a graduate school application to make it through the approval process. An example was given of a graduate student who mailed an application for graduate school to the University of South Carolina and Virginia Tech on the same date. The student was admitted to the University of South Carolina within one week. Three weeks later the Pamplin College of Business had not received the student's application from the Graduate School. Joe Merola addressed this situation. His mission as Acting Dean of the Graduate School is to look at all of the Graduate School processes to make sure that Virginia Tech is in a better position to act more quickly. For example, the Undergraduate Admissions Office's on-line application process is being reviewed as an example of a system which would allow more timely review of applications. Dr. Merola offered to research the specific case mentioned.

Dr. Bohland added that discussions have taken place regarding this issue and that a priority has been placed on speeding up the process to get applications to the departments more quickly.

Provost Search Update - Dr. Eyre gave an update on the Provost search process. The search committee has narrowed the field to seven semi-finalists. The candidates will be interviewed off-campus beginning the week of February 12. From those seven the committee expects to choose three or four candidates who will be brought to campus for a full-scale interview. The candidates will have interaction with faculty, staff, students and administrators. A question was raised as to how the on-campus process will be conducted. The candidates will be brought in separately and will spend three days on campus. The committee is still discussing the possibility of a public presentation. Discussion ensued about the benefits of a public presentation. The general consensus was that this would be a positive approach and would present the opportunity to hear the candidates' positions on various issues. One negative aspect mentioned was that the presentation would add to an already tight schedule. Many different groups around campus are asking for time with the candidates. Dr. Eyre agreed that it would be beneficial but it is just a matter of fitting everything in. If the presentation takes place each candidate would be asked to respond to the same question (i.e. discussing the future of higher education, particularly as it relates to a university like Virginia Tech that is aspiring to be in the top 30 research universities in the 21st century). A suggestion was made that the presentation takes place early in the process. Dr. Eyre agreed that it should occur probably within the first day.

### 3. Discussion

Report on Updating the University Strategic Plan  
Rosemary Blieszner, Director of Strategic Planning

Rosemary Blieszner gave a report on updating the University Strategic Plan. President Steger convened a steering committee that is broadly representative of the university. The core of the committee includes members of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning. Additional members include the Vice Presidents, Vice Provosts, Deans, a representative of the Academy of Teaching Excellence, a representative of the University Distinguished Professors, Athletics, undergraduate and graduate student representatives, and Faculty and Staff Senate representatives. Prior to each monthly meeting materials are gathered as background papers for the committee to use in their deliberations. The first meeting focused on the key factors that influence the functioning of a major research university as well as the existing six strategic directions and the university's mission statement. Consideration was given to the revision of these documents in light of the President's goal of achieving greater research stature for the University.

The second meeting will focus on key policy questions that emanate from the key factor analyses. The committee will review scenarios based on different assumptions about the resources and different components of the University and eventually will draft a new strategic plan for the Board of Visitors in June.

More detailed information is available at the following website: <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/president/strategic/startpage.html>. A quick link is to go to the Virginia Tech home page ([www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu)), click on Administration, the President and Strategic Planning. The site includes a schedule of meetings, members of the steering committee, and key factor briefing papers. The site will be updated periodically.

Dr. Bohland adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd

University Council Minutes  
February 19, 2001

Present: James Bohland (Chair), Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), Landrum Cross, Margie Zelinski (for Elizabeth Flanagan), Eileen Hitchingham, Max Stephenson (for Paul Knox), Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Joe Merola, Lisa Halleck (for Jennie Reilly), Mode Johnson (for Raymond Smoot), Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), Linda Correll (for James Martin), Leon Geyer, Irene Leech, Terry Herdman, Marqueea King, Steven Thompson, Ed Fox (for Joe Hunnings), Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Rebecca Crittenden, Sam Hicks, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Dan Dolan, Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, Cherese Winstead (for Alexandria Graves)

Absent: Earving Blythe, Gregory Brown, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Janet Johnson, Minnis Ridenour, Charles Steger, Bill Stephenson, Andy Swiger, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Jack Davis, Pat Devens, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Pete Martens, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, Benjamin Poe, David Fowler, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire, Christina Coukos

Guests: David Ford

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of February 5, 2001

Dr. Bohland noted that the minutes from the February 5, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB.  
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3. New Business

Editorial Change to the University Council Constitution and Bylaws to revise membership listing to reflect administrative restructuring.

Kim O'Rourke made the following announcement regarding editorial changes to the University Council Constitution and Bylaws: With a recent change to the administrative structure, we have a newly created position titled Dean of the Graduate School. Because our governance rosters need to incorporate this new post, and to create a record in the minutes of the relevant roster changes, I wish to announce that effective immediately, an editorial change will be made to the Constitution and Bylaws of University Council to include the newly created post of Dean of the Graduate School, which will be added ex-officio, by virtue of position, to the membership of University Council, the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, and the Commission on Student Affairs. The roster will reflect that this position is held currently on an acting basis by Dr. Joseph S. Merola.

First Reading

Faculty Senate Resolution 2000-2001A  
Resolution Regarding Revision of the Faculty Senate

Constitution

Mitzi Vernon, President of the Faculty Senate,

presented the resolution for first reading. Last year the Faculty Senate Constitution was reviewed with regard to the protocol required for updating the membership of a committee. It was noted that there were several areas of the constitution that were out of date. The revision process began in March, 2000 and required that 50 percent of the faculty vote on the revision for it to be adopted. Both the revised version and the old version of the constitution and by-laws are on the web site at [www.facultysenate.vt.edu](http://www.facultysenate.vt.edu).

Changes include appointing additional members to the Reconciliation Committee, streamlining the process of dealing with future changes to the constitution by eliminating the large faculty vote, changing the references from the quarter system to semester system, and increasing representation on the Senate from colleges and the library. The Senate is the representative of the faculty and is capable of making changes to these documents without calling for a vote of the entire faculty. Ms. Vernon noted that sixty-three percent of the faculty voted and approximately 97 percent voted affirmatively on the changes.

As a courtesy to the Board of Visitors a small editorial change will be made at the second reading of the resolution to restore language from the original constitution pertaining to review by the President and Board of Visitors.

A request was made from the audience to make an additional editorial change under Article I. Name and Purpose. Since staff is a part of the University Governance system it was suggested that "staff" be inserted in the sentence, "The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to create an effective Faculty organization, which can enter into partnership for shared responsibility and cooperative action between the Faculty, Administration, and Students in order to promote the general welfare of the University." Ms. Vernon agreed and indicated that this was an oversight. She will bring this to the Faculty Senate meeting.

When questioned about the size of the Faculty Senate, Ms. Vernon responded that there would be 50 members. She emphasized that the Senate would now be in a better position to enact necessary changes in a more efficient and timely manner.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
2000-2001C  
Resolution Regarding the Membership of the  
University Athletic Committee

Steven Thompson presented the resolution for first reading. The University Athletic Committee is charged with providing advice to the Provost on broad policy issues. The addition of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs would give the committee a broader base of operation and discussion. At this time there is no one on the committee to speak on behalf of the Provost.

David Ford commented that organizationally, the person that is in charge of academic advising of athletes reports to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, so it would be appropriate to have the Vice Provost's position represented on the Athletic Committee.

### 3. Ongoing Business

Council approved the following Commission minutes:

- \* Commission on Faculty Affairs
- \* January 19, 2001
- \*
- \* Leon Geyer commented on the recently approved Technical Assistance Program (TAP) mentioned in the minutes of CFA. TAP essentially allows

consulting to be run through the Continuing Education Center and it gives some protection to faculty members in a variety of ways. The success of this program is unknown but a program of which the general population of the university should be aware.

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\* Commission on Outreach  
November 9, 2000

\* Commission on Outreach  
December 14, 2000

\*

\* Commission on Outreach  
January 18, 2001

Irene Leech noted that the most substantive issue to be discussed at the Commission on Outreach has been the Technical Assistance Program. The Commission will be bringing TAP forward at the next University Council meeting.

\* Commission on Student Affairs  
January 25, 2001

Marquea King stated that the Commission on Student Affairs minutes had been amended to reflect the actual date for the Board of Visitors selection of the undergraduate representative from March 4 to March 5.

\* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
January 22, 2001

Dr. Bohland adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd

University Council Minutes  
March 19, 2001

Present: Charles Steger (Chair), Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), Jeb Stewart (for Erv Blythe), Ben Dixon, Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Kim O'Rourke, Gene Brown (for Leonard Peters), John Eaton (for Joseph Merola), Jennie Reilly, Minnis Ridenour, Mode Johnson (for Raymond Smoot), Richard Sorensen, Bill Stephenson, Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Leon Geyer, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, Terry Herdman, Marquee King, Steven Thompson, Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Rebecca Crittenden, Sam Hicks, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Pete Martens (by phone), Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, Benjamin Poe, Alexandria Graves, David Fowler, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Christina Coukos

Absent: James Bohland, Gregory Brown, Landrum Cross, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Paul Knox, Susan Angle, James Martin, Joe Hunnings, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Kamal Rojiani, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire

Guests: Rosemary Blieszner, Richard Burian, David Ford, Kay Heidbreder, Pat Hyer, Gail McMillan, Paul Metz, Tim Pickering, Sue Tolin

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of February 5, 2001

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the February 19, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB.  
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3. New Business

First Reading  
Commission on Faculty Affairs  
Resolution 2000-2001A  
Visiting Faculty Appointments

Leon Geyer, Chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs presented the resolution for first reading.

First Reading  
Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001B  
Special Research Faculty Ranks and Related Issues

Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Herdman asked Pat Hyer to give a brief overview of the resolution. The main focus of the resolution deals with three changes to the Faculty Handbook for Special Research Faculty. Three new ranks were created to recognize faculty employees on sponsored funding who are involved in the delivery of services, technical assistance, and/or project management and administration. The new ranks are Project Associate, Senior Project Associate, and Project Director. The entry-level qualification for appointment of special research faculty will be changed from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree. The revised handbook will include more informative job descriptions and guidelines for assignment of the appropriate title. Procedural steps and the clarification of the

approval process are both addressed in the revision.

Several questions were raised from those in attendance. Discussion ensued and Dr. Hyer agreed to address any concerns prior to the second reading of the resolution. Questions and comments can be routed through the Secretary of University Council.

First Reading  
Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001C  
Revision of University Policy 13,000 on Intellectual

Properties

Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research presented the resolution for first reading. University Council adopted the Policy on Intellectual Properties in 1991. Due to the many technological advancements that have taken place, the need for a revision of the current policy was noted in the fall of 1996. Len Peters commissioned a sub-committee on "non-traditional scholarship" to study the Intellectual Properties Policy and to make recommendations for improvements to the policy. The committee, chaired by Gene Brown, made presentations to many groups across campus. The Intellectual Property Committee approved the policy and submitted the revised policy to the Commission on Research. The revised policy was approved by the Commission on Research on February 28, 2001.

In an overview of the Intellectual Property Policy, Tim Pickering discussed the current policy, the problems with the policy and the changes recommended in the revision. He also distributed a sheet listing those groups with whom the policy had been discussed since efforts were begun several years ago to revise it.

Mitzi Vernon noted that the Faculty Senate was not involved in the review process and that the Faculty Senate would like an opportunity to review the revised policy. During discussion it was noted that other groups also felt there was insufficient time to review the policy and that the faculty needs to know the impact on them before they can recommend approval. The general consensus was that the resolution should either be referred or deferred to allow more time for review and clarification of issues raised.

Kim O'Rourke gave the following explanation from the Bylaws of University Council. A request for deferral allows an extension of up to three University Council meetings before the resolution returns for second reading. During the deferral period, recommendations relating to the resolution may be forwarded to the Secretary of University Council. The recommendations will be distributed to Council members with the agenda for the next meeting. At the end of six weeks after the date of the first reading, the deferral period ends and the resolution is placed on the Council agenda for second reading. In this case that would be the May 7 meeting. Council would then act on the resolution. Action taken by Council may be approval, disapproval, referral, or amendment.

A resolution that is referred to the originating body for other than editorial changes or to incorporate amendments adopted during Council debate will be a new resolution when it is resubmitted for Council consideration and will be placed on the agenda for first reading. In this case, if the deferred resolution is subsequently referred back to the Commission on Research at the May 7 Council meeting, it could not come back to Council for consideration as a new resolution prior to Fall 2001.

Mitzi Vernon made a motion to defer the resolution until the May 7 Council meeting. Bill Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Ongoing Business

Second Reading  
Faculty Senate Resolution 2000-2001A  
Resolution Regarding Revision of the Faculty Senate

Constitution

Mitzi Vernon, President of the Faculty Senate, presented the resolution for second reading. There was no discussion. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Second Reading  
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies 2000-2001C  
Resolution Regarding the Membership of the University

Athletic Committee

Steven Thompson, Chair of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, presented the resolution for second reading. There was no discussion. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Council approved the following Commission minutes:

- Faculty Affairs
- \* Commission on Administrative and Professional  
February 15, 2001
  - \* Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
January 24, 2001
  - \* Commission on Faculty Affairs  
February 16, 2001
  - \* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
January 17, 2001
  - \* Commission on Student Affairs  
February 8, 2001
  - \* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
February 12, 2001

5. For Information Only

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for January 25, 2001 were distributed for information only.

6. Announcements

Minnis Ridenour gave a brief update on the recent actions of the General Assembly and the Governor regarding budget issues that affect the university. Budgets are approved by the General Assembly on a biennial system. The university is operating under the 2000-2002 budget approved by the General Assembly in 2000. The 2001 General Assembly chose not to take action on the Governor's proposed budget amendments. When asked about salary issues, Mr. Ridenour responded that the current budget has no provision for salary increases for faculty and staff other than those that took effect 11/25/00 because it has been the legislature's practice for the past ten years to make salary decisions on an annual basis.

It is unknown whether there will be a specially called session of the General Assembly to address budget issues.



Capital projects that had received prior authorization and that are funded only with non-general fund monies may proceed. The university is seeking clarification as to whether the Lane Stadium south end zone project may move forward.

## 7. Discussion

Eileen Hitchingham, Dean of University Libraries, gave a brief introduction to the presentation, "New Technology-Driven Dynamics in Scientific and Scholarly Communications." Virginia Tech participated in a conference last year in Tempe, Arizona to facilitate discussion concerning the scholarly publishing process. The goal of the meeting was to build consensus and provide guidance on the development of a system of scholarly publications.

Paul Metz, Director of Collections Management, and Gail McMillan, Director of Digital Libraries and Archives, presented information about the need for transformation of the scholarly publishing system.

The rising costs of journals in research libraries have led many universities, including Virginia Tech, to engage in several rounds of serial cancellations. High journal costs have caused many research libraries to cut back on the acquisition of materials. Virginia Tech will be reviewing cancellations for serials as early as next year. As in the past, input will be sought from the university community.

Last fall a brochure titled, Create Change, New Systems of Scholarly Communication, was distributed to the university community. Several presentations have been given to the university community in order to provide a broader understanding of issues and to explore alternatives for addressing the problems that jeopardize research communication.

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd

University Council Minutes April 2, 2001

Present:

Charles Steger (Chair), Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), Jeb Stewart (for Erv Blythe), James Bohland, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Lud Eng (for Peter Eyre), Margie Zelinski (for Elizabeth Flanagan), Eileen Hitchingham, Mary Ann Lewis (for Janet Johnson), Paul Knox, Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Joseph Merola, Jennie Reilly, Dwight Shelton (for Minnis Ridenour), Mode Johnson (for Raymond Smoot), Hap Bonham (for Richard Sorensen), Malcolm McPherson (for Bill Stephenson), Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), Linda Correll (for James Martin), Leon Geyer, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, Terry Herdman, Marquee King, Steven Thompson, Joe Hunnings, Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Rebecca Crittenden, Sam Hicks, Pete Martens (by phone), Althea Aschmann, Debbie Wilson, Delbert Jones, Alexandria Graves, Brandy Ellen Cowing

Absent:

Gregory Brown, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Bob Tracy, Jack Davis, Pat Devens, Suzanne Murrmann, Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Donna Cassell, Benjamin Poe, David Fowler, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire, Christina Coukos

Guests: Rosemary Blieszner, David Ford, John Phillips, Ted Settle

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of March 19, 2001

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the March 19, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (/)

3. New Business

First Reading Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2000-2001B Geographical Transfer Policy

Leon Geyer, Chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs presented the resolution for first reading. The current policy defines a geographical transfer as the reassignment of a faculty member to a primary workstation located more than 35 miles from the current workstation. The parameters of the policy were consistent with IRS regulations. The change in the policy is brought about due to the change in IRS regulations from 35 to 50 miles and to allow greater flexibility in faculty assignments.

The university has increasing operations in Roanoke. The change of workstation of a faculty member to Roanoke was cited as an example that would not come under the changed geographical transfer policy since Roanoke is less than 50 miles but more than 35 miles.

First Reading Commission on Outreach/Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2000-2001C Technical Assistance/Consulting Program

In the absence of Irene Leech (who had not yet arrived), Ted Settle gave an overview of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP). The program was designed to afford more opportunities to faculty to bring their consulting activities to the

university. Documents accompanying the resolution included a description of the program, a sample contract and procedural guidelines.

The Technical Assistance Program was created as part of the university's outreach mission in response to business and industry needs for short-term, quick turnaround, and small-scale consulting assignments or projects that match the university expertise. Advantages to faculty members include third party management of financial transactions, legal protection as a university-sponsored activity, and the opportunity to receive direct pay as a consultant. These activities may be listed on the faculty member's annual activity report as university outreach. The faculty member also has an opportunity to build a relationship with a company that may eventually lead to a more substantial grant or contract for research and development.

The program will be promoted in two ways. First, TAP will be promoted to external organizations to let them know this opportunity for collaboration exists. Second, TAP will be promoted internally to faculty who are not aware of the program. The program is offered as an option for faculty. It is not mandatory. Faculty may still undertake independent consulting activities in accordance with university policies. Dr. Steger pointed out that under the Technical Assistance Program the faculty member would have the use of limited university resources.

#### First Reading Commission on Research Resolution 2000-2001D Confirming Continuation of Policy 13010 on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment

Dr. Steger noted that the Conflict of Interest and Commitment Policy was passed last year for a one-year trial. Terry Herdman, chair of the Commission on Research, presented the resolution for first reading. Lud Eng, chair of the Conflict of Interest and Commitment Committee, shared information about the report. The original policy directed that surveys be sent out to gather information from all those who participated in the process from its inception in the late spring 2000 through the end of fall semester 2000. Each college was solicited for a list of all faculty members who had turned in any Policy 13010 forms. Associate Deans and individuals who had completed forms previously were contacted and asked specific questions about the process, the policy, and any difficulties or suggestions for improvements. Responses from both groups were very similar. Suggestions were submitted that might make the forms more clear. As a result, some modifications were made to streamline the process. The policy as applied this past year was deemed successful.

Dr. Eng noted that more explicit examples that clarify use of the policy will be added to the existing website. Background discussion documents that contain examples are currently available.

In response to a question, Pat Hyer noted that the vast majority of all the forms are completed for standard consulting. Malcolm McPherson agreed with Dr. Hyer's assessment. The type of consultancy is tremendously varied. The minority that have to go through to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) stage have involved negotiations at the departmental/dean's level. Most MOUs come out of faculty-owned businesses giving contracts to the university. The process seems to be working well.

A question was raised about the conflict of commitment portion of the policy. Issues related to conflict of commitment may turn out to be more problematic than issues of conflicts of interest. Issues regarding conflicts of interest are mostly financial and are often defined by state and federal law. This policy addresses conflicts of interest most effectively. Issues of conflict of commitment are going to be addressed by a new task force. Since the area of conflict of interest is relatively well defined, it is easier for the committee to address this area first. With that background, it may help the committee

subsequently to address the conflict of commitment issue.

#### 4. Ongoing Business

##### Second Reading Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2000-2001A Visiting Faculty Appointments

Leon Geyer, chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs, presented the resolution for second reading. There have been no changes to report since first reading. The resolution states that the decision to include all or some of the years of service from a visiting appointment is at the discretion of the faculty member. The decision must be made at the time of appointment to the tenure-track position and documented as part of the initial contract. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

##### Second Reading Commission on Research Resolution 2000-2001B Special Research Faculty Ranks and Related Issues

Terry Herdman, chair of the Commission on Research, presented the resolution for second reading. Dr. Herdman noted that there was discussion at the first reading of the resolution that raised a number of issues. The Commission is unsure whether all of the issues raised have been addressed completely. Dr. Herdman made a motion to defer the resolution until the May 7, 2001 University Council meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

##### Deferred Until May 7, 2001 Commission on Research Resolution 2000-2001C Revision of University Policy 13,000 on Intellectual Properties First Reading March 19, 2001

Terry Herdman, noted that a website has been established to facilitate discussion of issues raised by the resolution. Questions and answers are posted on the website. Presentations have been scheduled to allow more faculty the opportunity to learn more about the policy.

Council approved the following Commission minutes:

##### \_ Commission on Faculty Affairs March 2, 2001

Dr. Steger stated that he read the discussion in the Commission minutes on the goal of top 30 status in relation to the state's priorities. Dr. Steger noted that he made a presentation before the State Council on Higher Education when they were on campus a few weeks ago and discussed this issue with the chair. Separately, he has discussed the goal with the gubernatorial candidates. Their reaction to what Virginia Tech has proposed was very positive.

##### \_ Commission on Student Affairs February 22, 2001

##### \_ Commission on Student Affairs March 1, 2001

##### \_ Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies February 26, 2001

#### 5. For Information Only

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for February 21, 2001 and March 1, 2001 were distributed for information only.

#### 6. Announcements

Leon Geyer noted that the Commission on Faculty Affairs will have a discussion on Intellectual Properties on Friday, April 6. CFA meetings are open to anyone. Suggestions for improvements to the Intellectual Property policy are welcome.

Rosemary Blieszner gave an update on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee meets monthly. The committee has reviewed the current mission statement and will be considering a different version and a vision statement at a meeting this week. The committee has also looked at some of the operational, administrative, and organizational factors that influence the university as well as trends and projections in light of the overall goal of elevating the university's research stature. They have looked at policy implications of making decisions in certain directions. The next meeting will also focus on narrative relative to the particular goal related to research and scholarship. Later on, they will discuss the areas of undergraduate and graduate education and outreach. The committee is working towards the Board of Visitor meeting in June, at which the results of the planning will be presented. Key policy issues will be presented for the Board's review in hopes that they will endorse the direction in which the committee is moving. The Strategic Planning website contains more detailed information about the committee's work.

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd University Council 1  
April 2, 2001

University Council Minutes  
April 16, 2001

Present: Charles Steger (Chair), Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), Jeb Stewart (for Erv Blythe), James Bohland, Gregory Brown, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Paul Knox, Kim O'Rourke, Joseph Merola, Minnis Ridenour, Raymond Smoot, Hap Bonham (for Richard Sorensen), Bill Stephenson, Andy

Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), James Martin, Leon Geyer, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Irene Leech, (Gene Brown for Terry Herdman), Marquee King, Steven Thompson, Joe Hunnings, Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Rebecca Crittenden, Sam Hicks, Pete Martens (by phone), Pat Devens, Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Althea Aschmann,

Delbert Jones, Benjamin Poe, Alexandria Graves, Brandy Ellen Cowing

Absent: Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Leonard Peters, Jennie Reilly, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Suzanne Murrmann, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, David Fowler, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire, Christina Coukos

Guests: David Ford, Kimberly Hoffmann

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of April 2, 2001

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the April 2, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (/)

3. New Business

First Reading

Staff Senate  
Resolution 2000-2001A

Revision to the Constitution of the Virginia Tech Staff Senate, Article V Section D

Delbert Jones, President of the Staff Senate, presented the resolution for first reading. Mr. Jones noted that some associations have experienced a lack of enthusiasm on the part of some staff to participate in Governance while other staff enjoy giving their time to this effort. The resolution would allow those who want to participate to volunteer their time for more than two consecutive terms as outlined in the current Staff Senate Constitution. Term limits imposed by the Constitution and Bylaws for University Council and the University Commissions, Committees and Advisory Councils would remain the same.

4. Ongoing Business

Second Reading

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution 2000-2001B  
Geographical Transfer Policy

Leon Geyer, Chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs, presented the resolution for second reading. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved.

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Second Reading

Commission on Outreach/Commission on Faculty Affairs  
Resolution 2000-2001C  
Technical Assistance/Consulting Program

Irene Leech, Chair of the Commission on Outreach, presented the resolution for second reading. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

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Second Reading

Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001D  
Confirming Continuation of Policy 13010 on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment

Gene Brown presented the resolution for second reading. A question was raised as to why the title of the policy contains the word "commitment" when the main topic of the policy statement deals with conflict of interest. Pat Hyer stated that the global issues of the policy are both conflict of interest and commitment. Conflict of interest is predicated upon state and federal law. A committee will be considering additional issues related to conflict of commitment and they will make recommendations for further policy changes as needed. Joe Merola stated that the policy and supporting documents do deal with issues other than the conflict of interest. The background document gives a number of examples of activities that are not necessarily monetary issues, such as presidency of a national scholarly society or editor of multiple journals. Faculty are expected to report on a wide range of external activities and to discuss with their department heads proposed external obligations. Such activities often involve large time commitments that must be in keeping with departmental expectations. In many cases the issues are a question of disclosure. Dean Stephenson agreed with Dr. Merola's statements and strongly supports the resolution.

Dr. Steger noted that while the issue of conflict of commitment has not yet been addressed fully, several aspects are addressed in the policy. The intent is to try to obtain as complete a disclosure as possible for the protection of faculty.

Dr. Steger encouraged faculty to direct questions and concerns to Dr. Merola so that he may pass the information along to the group that will be working on the second phase of the policy.

A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

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Deferred Until May 7, 2001

Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001C

Revision of University Policy 13,000 on Intellectual Properties

- - - - -

First Reading March 19, 2001

Gene Brown reported on activities that have taken place in order to secure input from faculty and staff regarding the proposed resolution. Campus-wide meetings have been held for: extended-campus faculty/staff, faculty senate, and the Commission on Faculty Affairs. The information received at these sessions will be considered and the website (<http://www.rgs.vt.edu/opd/ipqa1.htm>) will be updated. Changes made will be presented to the Commission on Research on April 25.

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Deferred Until May 7, 2001

Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001B  
Special Research Faculty Ranks and Related Issues

First Reading March 19, 2001

Pat Hyer discussed the substantive changes that have been made to the resolution since the first reading. The revised policy was distributed electronically to members of University Council. Under the existing policy, the research professor series (Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, Research Professor) requires approval of an academic department for original appointment or promotion to these ranks due to the faculty's supervision of graduate student theses and dissertations. The revision allows research units not part of a degree-granting department to make initial appointments and promotion to the research professor ranks, without review or approval by a related academic department. However, appointment or promotion to the research professor ranks in a non-academic research unit does not automatically convey to these faculty the authority to supervise graduate student theses or dissertations; such authority would have to be approved by the relevant academic department.

Minor editorial changes have also been made to respond to other concerns that have arisen since the first reading. Dr. Hyer invited those with questions or concerns regarding the resolution to email her ([hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)) prior to May 7.

Dr. Steger encouraged individuals who have comments or concerns on either of the deferred resolutions to also contact Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research, prior to the University Council meeting on May 7.

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Council approved the following Commission minutes:

- \* Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
March 15, 2001
- \* Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
February 28, 2001
- \* Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
February 7, 2001
- \* Commission on Research  
January 24, 2001
- \* Commission on Research



February 28, 2001

- \* Commission on Research  
March 14, 2001
- \* Commission on Student Affairs  
March 15, 2001
- \* Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
March 26, 2001
- \* Commission on University Support  
February 12, 2001

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd

**University Council Minutes  
May 7, 2001**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Chair), Bob Bates, Erv Blythe, James Bohland, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Paul Knox, Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Joseph Merola, Jennie Reilly, Dwight Shelton (for Minnis Ridenour), Raymond Smoot, Richard Sorensen, Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), James Martin, Leon Geyer, Irene Leech, Terry Herdman, Marqueea King, Steven Thompson, Ed Fox (for Joe Hunnings), Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, John Hillison, Jack Davis, Rebecca Crittenden, Pat Devens, John Williams (for Suzanne Murrmann), Dan Dolan, Pete Martens (by phone), Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, Benjamin Poe, Melinda Pomeroy (for Alexandria Graves), Brandy Ellen Cowing, Ryan Hartman (for Christina Coukos)

**Absent:** Gregory Brown, Landrum Cross, Bill Stephenson, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Wayne Durham, Skip Fuhrman, Sam Hicks, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Ashley Marshall, Donna Cassell, Debbie Wilson, David Fowler, Chris DelVecchio, Kylie Felps, Peter Logan, Candace Wiltshire

**Guests:** Rosemary Blieszner, Eugene Brown, John Moore

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

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

2. **Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of April 16, 2001**

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the April 16, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (<http://intra.vt.edu/govern/>)

3. **Ongoing Business**

**Second Reading (First reading April 16, 2001)**

Staff Senate

Resolution 2000-2001A

Revision to the Constitution of the Virginia Tech Staff Senate, Article V Section D

The resolution was presented for second reading. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Second Reading (First reading March 19, 2001)  
Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001B  
Special Research Faculty Ranks and Related Issues  
First Reading March 19, 2001**

The resolution was presented for second reading. A motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and approved by majority vote.

**Second Reading (First reading March 19, 2001)  
Commission on Research  
Resolution 2000-2001C  
Revision of University Policy 13,000 on Intellectual Properties  
First Reading March 19, 2001**

Terry Herdman, Chair of the Commission on Research, stated that the Commission on Research discussed the resolution at its meeting on April 25. At that meeting, Mitzi Vernon updated the Commission regarding discussion of the resolution in the Faculty Senate. After long discussion, the Commission on Research determined that the resolution should be withdrawn at this time. Details of the discussion can be found in the Commission on Research minutes for April 25. The Intellectual Property Policy Committee has been asked to continue to work on the policy and to bring the policy back to COR for the first meeting in the fall of 2001.

Dr. Herdman made a motion to withdraw the resolution. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Council approved the following Commission minutes:**

- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
March 28, 2001
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
April 6, 2001
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
April 20, 2001
- Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies  
February 21, 2001
- Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies  
March 21, 2001
- Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies  
April 4, 2001

Pat Hyer noted that a correction needs to be made to the April 4 minutes of the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies. Under Committee Reports, Graduate Curriculum Committee, the minutes incorrectly state that departmental names can be changed without SCHEV approval. SCHEV does need to approve departmental name changes. Minutes of the April 4 meeting should be changed accordingly.

- Commission on Outreach  
February 8, 2001
- Commission on Research  
April 11, 2001
- Commission on Research  
April 25, 2001
- Commission on Student Affairs  
March 29, 2001
- Commission on Student Affairs  
April 12, 2001

Marquea King introduced Ryan Hartman, Chair of the Commission on Student Affairs for 2001-2002.

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies  
April 9, 2001
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies  
April 23, 2001

4. **For Information Only**

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for March 29, 2001 were distributed for information only.

Dr. Steger thanked members of Council for their participation in the last year. He noted that we are still waiting to get a budget resolution from our representatives in Richmond. Information about the budget will be announced as it becomes available.

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Assistant to the President

/jcd