

**University Council Minutes**  
**February 6, 2017**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Tim Sands (presiding), Cyril Clarke, Karen DePauw, Karl Markgraf for Guru Ghosh, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, Theresa Mayer, Scott Midkiff, Gary Long for Sally Morton, Kim O'Rourke, Angela Hayes for Charles Phlegar, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Thanassis Rikakis, Heather Wagoner for Patricia Perillo, Dwight Shelton, Jack Lesko for Don Taylor, Tyler Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Richard Ashley, Matthew Chan, Jen Irish for Benjamin Corl, Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Sally Paulson, Hans Robinson, Robert Sebek, Dean Stauffer, Ross Verbrugge, Susan Anderson, Bryan Brown, Rami Dalloul, David Tegarden for Joe Merola, Christopher Beattie, David Dillard, Tom Inzana, Lisa Kennedy, Robin Lawson, Teresa Lyons, Albert Moore, Sue Teel, Annette Bailey, Sandra Muse, Glenda Scales, Alexandra Hyler, Kisha Gresham for Brett Netto, Julia Billingsley, Alexa Parsley, Montasir Abbas, Gabe Cohen, & Alex Parrish

**Absent:** Jack Davis, Michael Friedlander (with notice), Steve McKnight, Kelly Oaks, Elizabeth Spiller, Robert Sumichrast, Dave Close, Robert Bush, Corinne Noirot (with notice), Anita Puckett, Jennifer Brill, Kathrine Carter, Paul Herr, Nathan King, Christopher Zobel, Judy Alford (with notice), Tracey Drowne, John Benner, John Massey, Preston Huennekens, & Tara Reel (with notice)

**Guests:** Diane Agud, Shelia Collins, Jack Finney, Rachel Gabriele, Rachel Holloway, April Myers & Rich Sparks

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

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 5, 2016**

Dr. Sands noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

**3. Commission Chair Reports**

Dr. Sands asked the Commission chairs to present briefly their goals for the academic year.

1. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Mr. Ross Verbrugge, Chair
  - a. Working on increasing awareness and activity levels within A/P faculty ranks.
  - b. Working on distributing a survey to A/P faculty and will evaluate the results.
  - c. Report from Laurie Brogdon regarding the Black Caucus and A/P faculty opportunities.
  - d. Discussing the involvement and interaction of Virginia Tech A/P faculty across the Commonwealth.
2. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Ms. Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Chair
  - a. Working with CUSP on a resolution to revise the Pathways Curriculum.
  - b. Established a compensation and advancement equity workgroup.

- Working with Women's Alliance and the Office of Inclusion and Diversity to gather information supporting the establishment of a Council on Status of Women at Virginia Tech.
- c. Established a gender identity workgroup.
    - Assessing the ability of Banner to address past limitations of binary gender designation and name of choice.
    - Assessing the extent to which university divisions are meeting the intent of the 2016 Department of Education/Department of Justice Dear Colleague Letter.
  - d. CEOD is in support of the development of the climate survey by the Office of Inclusion and Diversity.
  - e. Consideration of the resolution to establish a faculty/staff Ombuds office.
  - f. Ongoing monitoring and consideration of actions to deter threats and improve climate for students attending the university under the DREAM Act.
  - g. Ongoing monitoring and consideration of actions to deter threats and improve climate for faculty, staff, and students based on religious affiliation, ethnicity, and citizen status.
  - h. Requested presentation at University Council on efforts to expand recruitment and support of first generation college students.

### 3. Commission on Faculty Affairs – Dr. Hans Robinson, Chair

- a. A resolution clarifying the duties of Instructors can be modified from the default 12 contact hours that are specified in the Faculty Handbook by individual terms of faculty offer has passed the CFA and will be brought before the University Council at its next meeting.
- b. The CFA is considering a resolution allowing faculty on restricted appointments to be promoted on a case-by-case basis, provided that home unit can show that it is not feasible to convert the position to a regular appointment.
- c. The Faculty taskforce on Promotion and Tenure is now operational and will produce a report as well as one or more resolutions for consideration by the CFA.
- d. The preparatory work for the University Ombuds office is nearly complete, with the proposed charter under review by the University Legal Counsel. When this is complete, the CFA will take up a resolution supporting the creation of the office and adding relevant language to the Faculty Handbook.
- e. The CFA will be considering a proposal to strengthen the review of the awarding of tenure at the time of hire.
- f. Discussions on promotion of Collegiate Faculty.
- g. The library faculty is in the process of harmonizing Faculty Handbook language and their internal procedure for awarding Continued appointment—the non-academic version of tenure—which may result in a resolution taken up by the CFA.
- h. The VTC School of Medicine integration will require substantial additions to and modifications of the Faculty Handbook, and some of these actions may be taken up later this semester.
- i. There are multiple issues in regard to Research Faculty that are under consideration by the Commission on Research. To the extent this work results in resolutions modifying the Faculty Handbook, those resolutions will be taken up jointly by the COR and the CFA.

### 4. Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Sally Paulson, Chair

- a. Review and approval of new degrees and certificates.
- b. Future of the Ph.D. including use of ePortfolio and archiving of research data.
- c. ACA and definition of graduate student as employee.
- d. Discussing if a different English proficiency standard for teaching should exist as compared to the proficiency measure for admission.

- e. Reviewing closely related persons serving on graduate student advisory committees.
- f. Diversity and inclusiveness training for graduate students.
- g. An anti-bullying group was formed to address problems as they relate to graduate students.
- h. Another iPhD proposal was approved.
- i. A new ombudsperson was hired.
- j. The Department of Labor now allows universities to offer health insurance premiums for graduate students without penalty.

5. Commission on Research – Dr. Jennifer Irish, member

- a. Review of 13,000 Series of Research Policies
  - Policy 13005, Center and University Institutes: Establishment, Governance and Programmatic Oversight has been revised and is being reviewed to clarify review procedures and unify procedures for director and unit review.
  - Policy 13,025, Removal of a Principal, Co-Principal or Lead Investigator is being revised to improve clarity.
- b. Faculty Handbook Revisions
  - Several edits are needed to align the language in the handbook with recent guidelines on the process and timing of research promotions.
  - Additional items might include adding language on dismissal of research faculty for cause, and formalizing the program on overload pay that has been in a pilot phase the last few years.
- c. Open Access Policy – working in collaboration with the library faculty
  - Virginia Tech does not have a policy but many other institutions do.
  - A committee has been formed to begin drafting a policy.
- d. Committee on Research Competitiveness has been progressing.
- e. The Commission on Research is interested in exploring the potential use of a new eFARS system for grant reporting activities.

6. Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – Mr. Robert Sebek, Chair

- a. Considering ways to encourage staff participation in shared governance.
- b. Review of the Climate Survey.

7. Commission on Student Affairs – Mr. Matthew Chan, Chair

- a. Approval of the Muslim Student Union as a new University Chartered Student Organization.
- b. Working with the Student Budget Board on allocation of funding requests.
- c. Working with the Student Budget Board on policy and procedure changes.
- d. Working in collaboration with the Dean of Students office on an online reporting of bias-related incidents.
- e. Working with the current undergraduate student representative to the Board of Visitors on the selection of the next undergraduate student representative to the Board of Visitors.

8. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Dean Stauffer, Chair

- a. Academic Support Committee
  - In support of having Labor Day off, review of 70-day Fall and Spring terms.
  - In support of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, evaluate terms because the terms do not mesh with Virginia Tech's terms.
- b. Academic Policy Committee

- Review to establish guidelines for process to award credit for life experience.
- Establish Ad Hoc Review Committee in support of Pathways Implementation Plan.

9. Commission on University Support – Dr. Richard Ashley, Chair

- a. Resolution to amend University Policy 1010 – Policy on Smoking. This resolution will include e-cigarette usage as part of the policy.

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

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

Resolution 2016-17F

Resolution to Establish a Horticulture Major with the Master of Science in Life Sciences Degree

Dr. Sally Paulson presented this resolution for first reading. There is a declining enrollment in the in the Master of Science in Horticulture and there is still some interest, so the intention is to join with other departments in the Master of Science in Life Sciences.

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

Resolution 2016-17E

Resolution to Discontinue Major in Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Business

Dr. Dean Stauffer presented the resolution for first reading. There is currently a major in Economics in both Business and Science. The Pamplin College of Business has developed a transition plan for this discontinuation of the economics major in the college. This will result in offering only one economics major at the university, and that will be in the College of Science.

##### **Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs**

Resolution 2016-17A

Resolution on Amendment to Staff Policies and Affairs

Mr. Robert Sebek presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution identifies what remedies Staff Senate will have when senators are not attending meetings as well as what constitutes an excused absence.

#### **5. General Assembly Update**

Dr. Sands indicated that the McAuliffe administration has issued its budget proposal, in December, and both the House and the Senate have now stated their positions. The number one concern is around appropriations. It looks like there will be a cut of approximately 5% which is around 1.3% of Virginia Tech's total operating budget (a little over \$8 million). The tax revenues are not as high as they were projected to be. It appears that Agency 229 will be protected.

One recommendation from the House would restrict our out-of-state percentage of undergraduates to 30%. Virginia Tech is currently at 27.4%.

There is a compensation program in both the Senate and the House. The Senate has a 2% salary increase for faculty and a 3% salary increase for staff. The House has a 3% salary increase for both faculty and staff. When there is an increase, Virginia Tech is responsible for 60% of the increase while the state is responsible for 40%. There doesn't appear to be any contingent language.

## **6. Announcement**

There is a new website to provide the latest information and guidance regarding the impact of the recent executive orders on US immigration. This website can be found at the following link:

<http://www.vt.edu/immigration.html>

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

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>). Note that the purpose of voting on Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council By-laws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
November 9, 2016  
December 14, 2016  
January 11, 2017
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
October 10, 2016  
November 7, 2016
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
November 11, 2016
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
November 16, 2016  
December 7, 2016
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
November 17, 2016  
December 15, 2016
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs  
September 27, 2016
- Commission on Student Affairs  
November 10, 2016
- Commission on University Support  
December 15, 2016

## **8. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
November 17, 2016

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:49 p.m.