

University Council Minutes
October 3, 2016
3:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Tim Sands (presiding), Cyril Clarke, Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Guru Ghosh, Saied Mostaghimi for Alan Grant, Martin Daniel for Theresa Mayer, Scott Midkiff, Kim O'Rourke, Angela Hayes for Charles Phlegar, Patricia Perillo, Dwight Shelton, Elizabeth Spiller, Robert Sumichrast, Don Taylor, Tyler Walters, Angela Kates for Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Richard Ashley, Matthew Chan, Dave Close, Benjamin Corl, Raifu Durodoye for Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Sally Paulson, Hans Robinson, Robert Sebek, Dean Stauffer, Ross Verbrugge, Susan Anderson, Bryan Brown, David Tegarden for Joe Merola, Corinne Noirot, Rami Dalloul, Christopher Beattie, Jennifer Brill, David Dillard, Tom Inzana, Lisa Kennedy, Christopher Zobel, Sue Teel, Annette Bailey, John Massey, Sandra Muse, Glenda Scales, Chelsea Corkins, Kisha Gresham for Brett Netto, Julia Billingsley, Montasir Abbas, Gabe Cohen, Tamarah Smith for Alex Parrish, & Tara Reel

Absent: Michael Friedlander (with notice), Steve McKnight, Sally Morton (with notice), Menah Pratt-Clarke (with notice), Thanassis Rikakis (with notice), Robert Bush, Anita Puckett, Kathrine Carter (with notice), Paul Herr, Nathan King, Judy Alford (with notice), Tracey Drowne, Robin Lawson, Teresa Lyons, Lynn Short, Tom Tucker, Perston Huennekens, Warren Nooger, Rex Willis

Guests: Rosemary Blieszner, Rachel Gabriele, Saul Halfon, Karen Hult, Patrick Miller, April Myers, Scott Nelson, Ellen Plummer, Rich Sparks, Robert Stephens, & Diane Zahm

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 19, 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. Presentation

Dr. Diane Zahm gave a presentation on the proposed University Ombuds position (see attached handout).

4. Old Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2016-17A

Resolution to Discontinue the Ph.D. in Hospitality and Tourism Management

Dr. Sally Paulson presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2016-17B

Resolution to Discontinue the Master of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management

Dr. Sally Paulson presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2016-17A

Resolution to Modify the Membership of the University Curriculum Committee for General Education (UCCGE)

Dr. Dean Stauffer presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

5. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2016-17C

Resolution to Establish a Master of Arts Degree in Nonprofit and Nongovernmental Organization Management

Dr. Sally Paulson presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of this degree is to prepare graduates for professional leadership and management positions in the nonprofit sector. Dr. Paulson introduced Patrick Miller for any questions regarding the new degree. Dr. Miller indicated that this degree is somewhat unique and that there is not a parallel degree. This area has been rapidly growing because of the economy. The degree will also be an online degree program because of the large geographic market that it is intended to cover.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2016-17D

Resolution to Establish a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Security Governance

Dr. Sally Paulson presented the resolution for first reading. This degree program represents a specialization in the analysis of the governance, motives, and mechanisms in policy making phases in the securitization process. The program responds to a shift both in research emphasis and analytical perspective that's taken place in political science over the past fifteen years. Security is no longer conceived by practitioners and scholars in terms of hard-asset military power, but in terms of an array of what are now called nontraditional security concerns that require proactive strategies of governance. This doctoral program will expand the Political Science Department's recognized programmatic and institutional strengths in the study of security and especially environmental politics and policy. This program was designed in part due to the growing demand for social science and graduate education and research. Dr. Paulson introduced Scott Nelson and Karen Hult to answer any questions about the degree. Currently, there are forty graduate level courses on the books.

Dr. Spiller then indicated that the initial intent was to put this degree forward about nine months ago, but the Provost asked to delay the presentation of the degree until there was ample time to consider Beyond Boundaries and Destination Areas during the design stage.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2016-17B

Resolution for the Renaming of the Department of Science and Technology in Society to the Department of Science, Technology, and Society.

Dr. Dean Stauffer presented the resolution for first reading. The new name is a more inclusive description of the program, and most of our peer institutions have similar names. This change will allow the program to be more nationally recognized. Dr. Stauffer introduced Robert Stephens and Saul Halfon to answer any questions

about the resolution. Dr. Halfon indicated that there is the development of a new undergraduate major, and they do not wish to have three different names in this area. Currently there is a graduate program in Science and Technology Studies, and the new undergraduate program will be named Science, Technology, and Society. The primary reason for this change is to be in alignment with our peer institutions.

6. Announcement

Dr. Sands thanked everyone for attending the inaugural State of the University Address, and asked for any recommendations for next year's address.

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
September 14, 2016
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 5, 2106
February 19, 2016
March 4, 2016
March 18, 2016
April 1, 2016
April 7, 2016
April 15, 2016
September 9, 2016
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
December 15, 2015
April 26, 2106
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
September 12, 2016
- Commission on University Support
April 21, 2016

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

What is an Ombuds Office?

An Ombuds Office serves as a safe space where members of the university community can seek advice on a variety of issues and concerns on an informal basis, and without fear of retaliation or judgment. The Ombuds Officer listens, looks for information, and helps with understanding problems and possible solutions. The Ombuds Office is independent, but works within the existing structures and policies of the university.

Why does Virginia Tech need an Ombuds Office?

- To achieve the university's goals for the destination areas and the VT-shaped student, we must create a campus where individuals feel free to engage across multiple administrative units and degree programs. The university community will need a central point of contact so that, when conflicts arise, the path to a resolution can be clearly identified.
- An Ombuds Office can create efficiencies in case management and case processing, by assisting visitors to the office in finding the best and most appropriate path for resolving a conflict. The Office also has the potential to reduce or even eliminate grievances, lawsuits, or other types of cases (e.g., ethics reviews), by helping visitors to the office understand what is possible and what is necessary in order to bring a case forward. And the independent and confidential nature of the office could ameliorate the fear of retaliation among members of the university community.
- Virginia Tech would situate itself among its SCHEV and AAU&C peers, the other Virginia 4-year research institutions, and the National Institutes of Health, who already provide Ombuds services. (See the attached table.)
- Commitment to an Ombuds Office has the potential to improve morale and create resilience in a time of great change, and could be an important aspect of recruitment and retention.

Would an Ombudsman impact existing roles, responsibilities, policies or procedures?

Establishing an Ombuds Office would not change the roles, responsibilities, or services of other constituent programs or organizations on campus. The Ombuds Office serves in an advisory role, helping a visitor to the office understand what resources are available and where to find needed services or remedies.

What data/information must the Ombuds Office report to the university?

The services of the Ombuds Office are confidential and are not documented or distributed for use by the university, with the following exceptions:

- When there is imminent danger or threat of harm to an individual or the broader university community, the Ombuds Office must immediately report the situation to an appropriate unit on campus.

- Summary statistics, i.e., number of visitors to the office, types of complaints, etc., are included in an annual report to the President, and to meet Clery Act requirements. The annual report does not include details on specific cases, nor does it identify visitors to the office.

What does Virginia Tech need to do to create an Ombuds Office?

- The first step will be to develop and approve/adopt an organizational Charter outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Ombuds Office. The Charter should specifically reference the Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics of the International Ombudsman Association (IOA), which required that the Ombudsman Office be independent, neutral, confidential, and informal. It is recommended that the Ombuds Office report directly to the President of the University.
- The Ombuds Office should be staffed by two full-time, professionally trained Ombuds, with staff support (3FTE), which will require the development of position descriptions, an office budget, and a space appropriate for the Ombuds function.
- As part of the creation process, other related/constituent units will need to be engaged in conversations about how best to integrate the Ombuds function with existing programs and services. Some examples:
 - The Graduate School's Ombudsman would continue in that distinct role, but collaborate with the University Ombuds Office to create a seamless experience for graduate students and faculty.
 - Human Resources offers mediation and conflict resolution services that would be available as needed to visitors to the Ombuds Office.
 - SGA and GSA must understand how the Ombuds Office would interact with the Honor Systems for undergraduate and graduate students.