

**University Council Minutes**  
**November 28, 2016**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Thanassis Rikakis (presiding), Ansar Ahmed for Cyril Clarke, Karen DePauw, Michael Friedlander, Alan Grant, Theresa Mayer, Scott Midkiff, Gary Long for Sally Morton, Kim O'Rourke, Julie Shumaker for Charles Phlegar, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Lee Hawthorne for Patricia Perillo, Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton, Elizabeth Spiller, Robert Sumichrast, Don Taylor, Tyler Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Richard Ashley, Andrew Peck for Matthew Chan, 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, Corinne Noirot, Jennifer Brill, David Dillard, Tom Inzana, Nathan King, Christopher Zobel, Judy Alford, Teresa Lyons, Sue Teel, Annette Bailey, Glenda Scales, Chelsea Corkins, Kisha Gresham for Brett Netto, Montasir Abbas, Gabe Cohen, Alex Parrish

**Absent:** Tim Sands (with notice), Jack Davis, Guru Ghosh, Steve McKnight, Dave Close, Robert Bush, Anita Puckett, Christopher Beattie, Kathrine Carter (with notice), Paul Herr, Lisa Kennedy, Tracey Drowne, Robin Lawson, Lynn Short, Tom Tucker, Nicole Johnson (with notice), John Massey (with notice), Sandra Muse, Perston Huennekens, Julia Billingsley, Rex Willis, & Tara Reel (with notice)

**Guests:** Shelia Collins, Jack Finney, Rachel Gabriele, Rachel Holloway, Ellen Plummer, April Myers, Rick Sparks, Amanda Stanley

Dr. Rikakis 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 November 14, 2016**

Dr. Rikakis 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. Deferred Resolution**

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2016-17E

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2016-17C

Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech (Deferred at the meeting of University Council on November 14, 2016)

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2016-17B

Resolution to Revise the Constitution of the University Council

Dr. Hans Robinson presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. This resolution had been deferred at the November 14, 2016, University Council meeting because the Faculty and Staff Senates are required to ratify changes to the University Council Constitution. Both senates have now ratified the resolution. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

##### **Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CAPFA 2016-17A

Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Language Regarding Reassignment

Mr. Ross Verbrugge presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. The resolution had one change from the first reading which was to remove the language "...and a next-level administrator..." The rationale for this is to preserve the integrity of the grievance process because the next-level administrator is often a part of the grievance process. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

#### **5. New Business**

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

Resolution CUSP 2016-17D

Resolution to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Dean Stauffer presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. Stauffer introduced Don Taylor and Amanda Stanley to answer any questions regarding the resolution. Dr. Taylor indicated that this is a rapidly emerging field with great demand. Ms. Stanley indicated that there is high demand for this degree both inside and outside of the university. Currently there are over 200 students in the minor and a vast majority of these students will change to this major once it is an available option.

#### **6. 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 Graduate Studies and Policies  
November 2, 2016
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
September 15, 2016
- Commission on Student Affairs  
October 27, 2016

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
October 24, 2016  
November 7, 2016

**7. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
October 27, 2016

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 p.m.