

University Council Minutes
March 2, 2020
3:30 PM
Steger Hall Conference Center

Present: Tim Sands (presiding), Monty Abbas, Lynn Abbott, Janice Austin, Blake Barnhill, Debra Stoudt for Laura Belmonte, David Bieri, Conrad Briles, Urs Buehlmann, Greg Daniel, Karen DePauw, Greg Fansler, John Ferris, Bryan Garey, Velva Groover, Conaway Haskins, Khaled Hassouna, Inga Haugen, Jia-Qiang He, Bob Hicok, Chad Bolding for Daniel Hindman, John Hole, Kimberley Homer, Alexis Hruby, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, Bettina Koch, Daniel Harrington for Lee Learman, Eric Kaufman for Mary Marchant, Alan Michaels, Scott Midkiff, Ken Miller, Patricia Hammer for Sally Morton, Lori Buchanan for April Myers, Kim O'Rourke, Robin Queen, Julie Farmer for Charles Phlegar, Dwayne Pinkney, Kerry Redican, Julia Ross, Tremayne Waller for Glenda Scales, Tamarah Smith, Robert Sumichrast, David Tegarden, Tyler Walters, Paul Winistorfer, Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Serena Young

Absent: Diane Agud (with notice), Janice Austin (with notice), Hani Awni, Jayme Bibbins, Richard Blythe (with notice), Jonathan Bradley, LaTawnya Burleson (with notice), Cyril Clarke (with notice), Kaitlyn Cole, Jennifer Early, Michael Friedlander, Matthew Gabriele, Guru Gosh, Ryan King, Chris Lawrence, Katrina Loan, Teresa Lyons, Steve McKnight, Brandy Morse (with notice), Cayce Myers, Kelly Oaks (with notice), Kase Poling, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Jack Shebat, Collin Shelton, Frank Shushok, Adi Sircar, Sharon Stidham, Caitlyn Stokes, Don Taylor, Sue Teel (with notice), Madelynn Todd, Lisa Wilkes

Guests: Austin Crockett, Mike Ellerbrock, Kari Evans, Dee Harris, Cristen Jandreau, Sharon Kurek, Lisa Lee, Scott Nachlis, Ellen Plummer, Rick Sparks

President Sands called the meeting to order at 3:30 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 February 17, 2020

President Sands noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance website: <https://governance.vt.edu>

3. New Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2019-20B

Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Promotion and Tenure Guidelines

Bob Hicok presented the resolution for first reading. The revision is intended to standardize performance categories and expectations in order to provide consistencies between the Faculty Handbook and the P&T guidelines. Some concern was raised regarding verbiage utilized in the proposed revision for the categories in which faculty will be evaluated: teaching, scholarship, and service. A question was also raised as to whether the revision will convey expectations of faculty as part of a land grant institution and its mission of outreach and engagement.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20H

Resolution to Change Membership to the Athletics Committee

Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The proposed changes the requirement for the selection of the two student representatives appointed to the committee so that one scholarship athlete from a men's sport and one scholarship athlete from a women's sport are to serve. Currently, the appointed are one freshman-sophomore scholarship athlete and one junior-senior scholarship athlete.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20I

Resolution to Approve New Major, Community Economic Development, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20J

Resolution to Approve New Major, Food and Health Systems Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20K

Resolution to Approve New Major, Environmental Economics: Management and Policy, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20L

Resolution to Approve New Major, International and Trade Development, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management

Kerry Redican presented these resolutions for first reading. The four resolutions will create new majors to provide more options and visibility for students working towards the Applied Economic Management degree.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20M

Resolution to Approve New Major, Arabic, in Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages

Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading.

4. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (<https://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
January 8, 2020
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 7, 2020
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
February 5, 2020

- Commission on University Support
November 21, 2019

5. Presentation on COI Taskforce

Cristen Jandreau provided an update on the work of the Conflict of Interest Taskforce (presentation attached).

6. Announcements

President Sands provided an update on the preventative measures the University is taking regarding the Coronavirus epidemic. The University is advising that all university travelers avoid travel to any countries currently rated at a CDC level three or above. Students returning from CDC level three countries are to be self-quarantined until they are proven asymptomatic for 14 days. The university will work with these students regarding their coursework during that time. Communications will be going out to the campus community in a couple of days to provide more information. All travelers should be referring to Policy 1070: Global Travel Policy when considering upcoming travel plans.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m.