

University Council Minutes
September 19, 2022
3:30 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Cyril Clarke (presiding), April Myers, Kim O'Rourke, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Randy Heflin for Daniel Sui, Bryan Garey, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Frances Keene, Aimée Surprenant, Rachel Holloway, Tom Thompson for Alan Grant, Daniel Givens, Laura Belmonte, Rosemary Blieszner, Kevin Pitts, Paul Winistorfer, Julia Ross, Robin Russell, Lee Learman, Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, Dwayne Edwards, Robert Weiss, Robin Queen, Holli Gardner Drewry, Janice Austin, Jennifer Jones, Serena Young, LaTawnya Burleson, Bruce Harper, Caroline Lohr, Mohamed Hussein, Jamal Ross, Ainsley Cragin, Ben Beiter, Chloe Robertson, Noor Tasnim, Anna Buhle, Carla Finkielstein, Masoud Agah, A.K. Ward Bartlett, Leigh-Anne Krometis, Daniel Hindman, Evan Lavender-Smith, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Azziza Bankole, Lujean Baab, Jamie McElfresh, Callan Bartel, Sue Teel, Melissa Faircloth, & Jan Helge Bøhn

Absent with notice: Tim Sands & Rachel Miles

Absent: Tyler Walters, Paul Knox, & Nathan King

Guests: Montasir Abbas, James Bridgeforth, Lori Buchanan, Steven Clark, Kim Daniloski, Kari Evans, Alice Fox, Ron Fricker, Dee Harris, Jack Leff, Alexander Leonessa, M.L. Logan, Sally Shupe, & Rick Sparks

Dr. Clarke 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 May 2, 2022

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

1. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Janice Austin, Chair
 - a. Will review and submit a resolution regarding changes to the A/P Faculty Senate Constitution
 - b. Will update the A/P Faculty Senate Bylaws
 - c. Will review and submit a resolution for wording changes in chapter seven of the Faculty Handbook
2. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – LaTawnya Burleson, Chair/Melissa Faircloth
 - a. Will be working towards submitting the Land and Labor Acknowledgement resolution
 - b. Working to ensure CEOD's voice and membership is represented in University Council
 - c. Conduct annual check-in with caucuses
 - d. Work on completing working group charge regarding disaggregation of data brought forth by APIDA community in 2022
3. Commission on Faculty Affairs – Robin Queen, Chair

- a. Faculty Handbook revisions left over from the 2021-22 governance changes
 - b. Defining Emeritus Status/honorifics and requirements
 - c. Receiving an update on SPOT/teaching evaluation project
 - d. Receiving an update on provost/university policy 6100
4. Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs – Alice Fox, Chair
- a. Focusing on graduate and professional affordable housing
 - b. Focusing on graduate and professional healthcare and wellness
 - c. Following up with efforts to evaluate graduate assistant workloads and compensation
 - d. Assisting CGPSP with reviewing admissions criteria (including but not limited to the GRE)
5. Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies – Montasir Abbas, Chair
- a. Operational
 - Will use SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, and threats), when discussing and writing resolutions
 - Consider collaboration and engagement of other commissions in specific actions when needed
 - b. Responsive
 - i. Past Cycle
 - a. GRE
 - b. GA Stipends
 - ii. New Cycle as needed
 - c. Proactive
 - i. On-line learning/experiential learning
 - ii. Funding success and workshops
 - a. Office of Research and Innovation, Office of Sponsored Programs, and Commission on Research for funding
 - b. Industry/philanthropy
 - c. Student fellowships
 1. Student rewarded for getting them
 2. Unified university-wide (workshop for student applying for grants)
 3. Interdisciplinary work
 - d. Recruitment of outstanding students
 - i. Mechanism
 - ii. Funding stream
6. Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Jan Helge Bøhn, Chair
- Support the development of a new university-wide global strategic plan
 - Support the rebuilding of the Outreach and International Affairs organization following the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic situation
 - Support the development of experiences that can be included in a transcript both domestically and internationally
7. Commission on Research – Alexander Leonessa, Chair
- a. Investigate and provide recommendations for the status, structure, and resources for professional development and career advancement for research faculty on the Virginia Tech Campus
 - b. Looking at representation of research faculty in shared governance
 - c. Revamping of policies on centers at Virginia Tech (13005 and 3020)
 - d. Conflict of Commitment determination, reporting, and approval

- e. Continuing investigation of the impact of COVID on our faculty, from a research impact point of view, but also with an eye to caregiving needs
 - f. Discuss research on controversial topics, such as race, religion, etc. Need to be attentive on how scholars are viewed within the university and make sure that they are not treated differently (more general topic of ethics in research)
 - g. General evaluation of the administrative burden on researchers, and the various administrative and operational hurdles that limit research productivity
 - h. Address software procurement, which continues to be a considerable hurdle for all aspects of the university's mission, but especially for research
8. Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – LaTawnya Burlison, Chair
- a. Will have a resolution on revisions to the Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws
 - b. Continued information sessions on the new staff performance system to ensure engagement of supervisors
 - c. Increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives for staff
 - d. Looking at leave discrepancies that impact staff
 - e. Increasing professional development and career pathing for staff
9. Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs – Mohamed Hussein, Chair
- a. Begin orienting the new chair for CUSA
 - b. Create inclusive culture of dialog
 - c. Review first generation student performance compared to other universities
 - d. Focus on international student experience
10. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Evan Lavender-Smith, Chair
- a. As needed or upon request, review of academic policies in support of the Office of Policy and Governance
 - b. Review of library resources
 - c. Review of “W” grades
 - d. Review of grade access in relation to student academic success
 - e. Collaborate with other commissions as needed

4. Announcement of Approval and Posting of UC Cabinet and 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 Cabinet and Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council Bylaws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- University Council Cabinet
September 12, 2022
- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
March 9, 2022
April 13, 2022
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
March 16, 2022
April 6, 2022
April 20, 2022

May 4, 2022

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
May 5, 2022
- Commission on Research
April 14, 2022
May 5, 2022
- Commission on Student Affairs
April 14, 2022
April 28, 2022
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
April 25, 2022
- Commission on University Support
March 17, 2022

5. Announcement

Dr. Clarke announced that any presentations at University Council should be focused on matters of university governance.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m.