

**University Council Minutes**  
**December 4, 2023**  
**3:30 PM**  
**Creativity and Innovation District Building Multipurpose Library (Room 104)**  
**and Zoom**

**Present:** Cyril Clarke (presiding), April Myers, Kim O'Rourke, Amy Sebring, Laurel Miner for Daniel Sui, Bryan Garey, Frances Keene, Aimée Surprenant, Alan Grant, Daniel Givens, Laura Belmonte, Kevin Pitts, Paul Winistorfer, Julia Ross, Lee Learman, Tyler Walters, Dwayne Edwards, Natalia Guerrero, Evan Lavender-Smith, Janice Austin, Jennifer Jones, LaTawnya Burlison, Callan Bartel, Kiera Schneiderman, Shahed Sanuri, Alex Efrid, Rachel Maizel, Yohan Sequeira, Riley DeHority, Emily Tirrell, Gary Long, Nicole Pitterson, Stuart Feigenbaum, Rodney Gaines, Daniel Hindman, Charles Lowery, Renee LeClair, Serena Young, Amber Robinson, Sally Shupe, Melissa Faircloth, John Gray Williams, Gennell Chatman for Kelly Oaks, & Dave Close

**Absent with notice:** Tim Sands, Saonee Sarker, Joe Merola, Stephanie Trout, Kari Evans, & Virginia Buechner-Maxwell

**Absent:** Menah Pratt, Rachel Holloway, Tsai Lu Liu, Paul Knox, Robert Weiss, William Storey, Lujean Baab, & Shania Clinedinst

**Guests:** Madeline Boudville, Lori Buchanan, James Bridgeforth, M L Logan, Holli Drewry, Brandy Morse, Ron Fricker, Demetria Somervell, Rick Sparks, Stacey Wilkerson, Micha Fairchild, & Dee Harris

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 October 30, 2023**

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. New Business**

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2023-24A

Resolution to Revise the Description of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees in the Faculty Senate Constitution

Evan Lavender-Smith presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution clarifies the purposes and responsibilities of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees to better serve the faculty and emphasizes the specific scope and authority of the Faculty Senate in the context of complaints involving faculty. The revision removes the statement that the standing committees serve the faculty as a whole because they do not serve the A/P faculty.

**Commission on Research**

Resolution COR 2023-24A

Resolution to Revise Policy 13040: Virginia Tech Human Subjects Research Policy

Laurel Miner presented the resolution for first reading. The changes made to this policy are holistic and are mainly to make sure that the policy is update-to-date with the Common Rule (federal regulations regarding human subjects research), as well as adjustments to acknowledge changes to the organizational structure of who oversees human subjects research at Virginia Tech. The resolution also removes internal processes from the policy document to focus on actual policy and not the process.

### **Commission on Research**

Resolution COR 2023-24B

Resolution to Revise Policies 13005 and 3020 on Center and Institute Establishment, Oversight, and Governance and Financial and Administrative Procedures

Laurel Miner presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution focuses on the following:

1. Combines policies 13005 and 3020 into one policy (eliminating Policy 3020).
2. Discontinues classifying centers according to mission, i.e., academic, research, or outreach.
3. Creates a new category, **sponsored center**, in which an entity outside of the center is primarily responsible for funding and oversight of the center.
4. Creates explicit criteria for establishing and reauthorizing a center.
5. Reemphasizes the expectation for concrete metrics and goals.
6. Simplifies some aspects of center review and reporting to move into procedures or best practices, and to provide the Administrator flexibility for establishing those processes.
7. Adds expectation of compliance with the policy, and consequences of not complying with it.

A question was raised around what happens if the relevant office or individual refuses to complete the evaluation of the proposal for a new center within 30 business days. This will be clarified prior to the second reading of this resolution.

A question was raised whether there are any considerations being given for possible accommodations for extant bodies that might not meet the criteria. Additional language has been added to the policy that anticipates a process over the next year to determine what to do with such legacy programs.

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

Resolution CSPA 2022-23A

Resolution to Add a Statement of Support for Participation in Shared Governance and Professional Development to Staff Job Postings.

Callan Bartel presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution seeks to add a statement of support to staff job postings regarding participation in shared governance and professional development opportunities. This is an expansion of President Sands's statement to the university community regarding support for staff participation in these activities.

## **4. Announcement of Approval and Posting of UC Cabinet, Commission, and Committee 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 minutes of the University Council Cabinet, Commissions, and Committees reporting to University Council Cabinet 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  
October 9, 2023  
October 23, 2023

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
September 13, 2023  
October 11, 2023
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
October 13, 2023  
October 27, 2023
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs  
November 8, 2023
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies  
November 1, 2023
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
October 19, 2023
- Commission on Research  
September 14, 2023
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
October 9, 2023  
October 23, 2023
- Athletics Committee  
September 14, 2023
- Campus Development Committee  
October 3, 2023
- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee  
October 23, 2023
- Transportation and Parking Committee  
October 10, 2023

## **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.