

University Council Cabinet Meeting Summary
October 27, 2025
3:30 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

Present: Justin Lemkul (co-chair), Menah Pratt, Kim O'Rourke, April Myers, Laura Belmonte, Amanda Morris, Marlena Lester, Amber Hagan, Rachel Miles, Jim Hawdon, Emma Roshioru, and Pooja Bhagawat

Absent Cyril Clarke (co-chair) and Amy Sebring

Guests: Aimée Surprenant and Ronnie Mondal

Dr. Lemkul called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the agenda.

2. Announcement of Approval of the October 13, 2025, meeting summary

Dr. Lemkul noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the governance website (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. Action/Decisions

The Cabinet voted to approve the November 3, 2025, University Council meeting agenda.

Aimée Surprenant and Ronnie Mondal presented recommendations on behalf of the Working Group to Formulate University Policy to Combat Unprofessional Behaviors Towards Graduate and Professional Students. Following are the decisions and actions made by the University Council Cabinet:

- The University Council secretary will distribute the working group report to the five senates.
- The Cabinet authorized the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) to begin drafting a resolution to amend the Faculty Handbook to codify the grievance process. This authorization will satisfy the requirement for a resolution proposal approval.
- The CFA will consult with the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs and the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies to ensure all classifications of faculty are included in the revisions to the Faculty Handbook.
- CFA will loop in the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs to determine if a resolution is needed from the staff side or if they can rely on existing HR/DHRM procedures.
- The Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs will partner with the Graduate School to develop and pilot training modules for graduate student panel members.

- CFA will confirm handbook placement for the graduate and professional student panelist requirement and will ensure complementary language with Policy 6125.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 p.m.