

University Council Cabinet Meeting Summary
February 23, 2026
3:30 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall and Zoom

Present: Julie Ross (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 with Notice: Justin Lemkul (co-chair) and Amy Sebring

Provost Ross 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 February 9, 2026, meeting summary

Provost Ross 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 following items:

1. The March 2, 2026, University Council Agenda

4. Discussion

A request was made to revise the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) representation on University Council. Specifically, the request would remove the Director of Communications and Secretary as a representative and replace that position with the Director of Advocacy. The Director of Communications and Secretary role carries significant responsibilities, and this adjustment is intended to help better balance the workload while maintaining strong GPSS representation.

Kim O'Rourke will incorporate this proposed revision into the comprehensive updates to the University Council Constitution and Bylaws that will be presented to the University Council Cabinet later this semester. The Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs is working on a resolution to change the GPSS Constitution accordingly.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 p.m.