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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held entirely electronically.

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 March 23, 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. [Note: the April 6, University Council meeting was cancelled.]

3. Old Business

Note: A new electronic voting process was implemented, and all votes were submitted and calculated at the conclusion of old business. Results of each member’s vote have been documented and are attached to the meeting minutes.

Commission on Research
Resolution COR 2019-20A
Resolution on Updates to Policy 13005

Alan Michaels introduced the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. A question was asked about whether the word “center” should be changed to italics in the first
sentence of Section 3.1, since the italicized version of center is used in the policy to convey that it refers to any center or institute defined in Section 4.

Appreciation for the work done on this document was expressed, and it was indicated that a number of faculty are grateful for the guidance on centers. Because the document focuses on research centers yet also applies to other types of centers, a suggestion was made that more work may be needed to include non-research centers such as outreach and extension centers. Dr. Michaels indicated that this policy is owned by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation which is why the primary focus is on research centers. Section 4.0 (Definitions) defines the various types of centers and institutes to which the policy applies; the policy states explicitly that it does not apply to cultural and community centers.

In response to a question about the diagram under Section 3.0 (Procedures), Dr. Michaels clarified that commission review is a required step for a university-level center if there is a commission associated with it. If the center is departmental, an institute, or other centers that do not align with research, instruction, or outreach; the process will by-pass the commission review and will go directly to the Vice President for review.

Future plans include further revision to the policy to provide clarification on the other centers this policy addresses.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

4. New Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2019-20D
Resolution to Change the Terms of Service for Faculty, Students, and Staff on University Council and Commissions

John Ferris introduced the resolution for first reading. Philosophically, this resolution gives faculty, staff, graduate/professional students, and undergraduate students the opportunity to exercise their right to representation more fully by removing some of the restrictions on the term limits of their representatives for service on University Council, university commissions and university committees. Currently university administrators in ex officio positions serve on these bodies for many years and they develop a history and understanding of the governance system, whereas term limits result in greater turnover in faculty, staff, and student positions. This resolution gives the different constituent groups the ability to select whomever they choose to act as their representative at the university level without being as constrained by term limits.

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
Resolution CGPSP 2019-20A
Resolution to Edit Constitution of the Graduate Honor System to Add Revoking Graduate Degree to Penalty Option

John Hole introduced the resolution for first reading. The ability already exists at Virginia Tech to revoke undergraduate degrees when the requirements for a degree were met fraudulently, but a policy to revoke graduate degrees does not currently exist. With the goal of preserving academic integrity, this resolution adds an optional penalty to the existing Graduate Honor Code. Under this proposal, if after a degree has been granted, the degree requirements are discovered to have been met fraudulently, then the degree may be revoked. This penalty would be an option but not required. A question was raised as to how often would the option of revoking a degree be utilized if it was available. In the last six years, there have been five to seven cases where it has been brought to the attention of the Dean of the Graduate School after a degree has been confirmed that there may have been plagiarism and/or falsification of data in the dissertation. Only one reached
the level where revoking a degree would have been pursued if it had been an option at the time. While the need to revoke a graduate degree is unlikely to occur, there should be a process in place in case should there be a need to do so.

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**  
Resolution CGPSP 2019-20B  
Resolution to Approve New Major, Reputation Management, in Master of Arts in Communication

John Hole introduced the resolution for first reading. This resolution proposes a new major within an existing non-thesis master’s degree. The new major meets all the requirements of the existing degree but replaces some of the broader course options with a required list of existing courses that are targeted towards reputation management. The new major is targeted to meet a new professional demand in both the communication and business fields.

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**  
Resolution CUSP 2019-20N  
Resolution to Establish the Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee

Kerry Redican introduced the resolution for first reading. The workload of the Pathways Ad Hoc Committee is too heavy for an ad hoc committee to manage so the creation of a permanent committee is proposed.

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**  
Resolution CUSP 2019-20O  
Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science

Kerry Redican introduced the resolution for first reading. This will be the first degree of its kind in the commonwealth, and there are only a few behavioral decision science programs in the United States. The degree will combine the strengths of several departments within the College of Science and will provide good opportunities for students after graduation. The Department of Management in the Pamplin College of Business is concerned about the assumption that the management program does not address economic and psychological theories when in reality it does. The head of the Department of Management wants to seek more guidance from the department’s undergraduate curriculum committee in evaluating the proposal.

In response to a question about the degree name, Robin Panneton indicated that this degree is one of the first of its kind to come from a science perspective. There is a department of Behavioral Decision Science at Carnegie-Mellon University which was studied carefully. There are several decision science degrees across the country. Behavioral decision science was selected as the title for the proposed degree because this degree focuses on the basic mechanisms and processes of making decisions from individuals, to groups, to corporations, to countries. Students will be trained in models of decision making that most other decision science degrees do not offer.

5. **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](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
  February 12, 2020
March 11, 2020
April 8, 2020

- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
  February 19, 2020
  March 4, 2020

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
  February 20, 2020

- Commission on Research
  February 6, 2020

- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
  February 25, 2020

- Commission on Student Affairs
  February 6, 2020
  February 20, 2020
  April 9, 2020

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  February 10, 2020
  February 24, 2020

6. **Presentation on Changes to the Student Code of Conduct and the Hokie Handbook**

Frank Shushok, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ennis McCrery, Director of Student Conduct, gave a presentation on changes being made to the Student Code of Conduct and the Hokie Handbook. (presentation attached).

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m.
REVISED STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL - APRIL 20, 2020
ENNIS MCCREERY, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT CONDUCT

OVERVIEW

1. Overview of the Student Code of Conduct
2. Impetus for the revision
3. Revision process
4. Highlights of significant changes
THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT OUTLINES POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY THAT SET STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS’ BEHAVIOR, ALONG WITH PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING AND SANCTIONING VIOLATIONS OF THESE STANDARDS.

- Includes non-academic conduct (i.e., separate from Honor Codes and systems)
- Applies to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students
- Overseen by the Office of Student Conduct in Student Affairs
- Focuses on supporting student learning and development and community safety

The Code is currently in the Hokie Handbook. The handbook also includes the following:

- Housing and Dining policies
- Complaint processes
- Support resources
- Other university policies that apply to students
“The information in this guide is applicable to all Virginia Tech students (graduate, undergraduate, and professional) and student organizations. It is your responsibility to take the time to review the contents of the handbook to assist in your success at Virginia Tech.” –pg. 4, Hokie Handbook
**REVISION PROCESS**

Best practices identified:

- Stand-alone code
- Focus on student development, rather than legalistic language and processes

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**OVERVIEW OF CHANGES**

- *Hokie Handbook* being retired in favor of a stand-alone *Student Code of Conduct*, with other sections currently in the handbook overseen and published online by relevant units (e.g., Housing and Resident Life, Dining, Dean of Students); Additional university policies that may be covered under the *Student Code of Conduct* will be linked in the new stand-alone document from the main policy website.

- Text edited or rewritten to be more accessible.

- Policies reorganized and simplified to emphasize educational focus
Reorganized section for prohibited conduct emphasizes behavioral impact and responsibility:
- Alcohol and Other Drug Offenses
- Offenses Against People
- Offenses Against Property
- Offenses Against the Community
- Offenses Against the University
- Other Prohibited Conduct

POLICY EDITS: EXAMPLES

Current policies:

**Abusive Conduct**: Any use of words or acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual’s rightful actions, including but not limited to the following:

1. Assult – Verbal/Nonverbal: Words or actions that would cause an individual to fear for their immediate safety. Words can constitute assault when they are accompanied by the ability to inflict immediate harm.

2. Battery: The use of physical force against an individual or acts that cause physical injury.

Revised policy:

**Abusive Conduct**: The use of physical force against an individual or any acts that cause physical harm; threats, including words or actions, that may cause a person reasonable apprehension of imminent physical harm.
POLICY EDITS: EXAMPLES

Current policies:
- Climbing: Unauthorized climbing inside or outside campus buildings or structures.
- Throwing Objects: Throwing, dropping, or projecting objects or substances out of or onto vehicles, buildings, or other university structures. This includes but is not limited to food, garbage, snowballs, water or water balloons.

Revised policy:
- Endangerment: Actions that intentionally or recklessly endanger the health, safety, or well-being of oneself or another person or group.

NEW SECTIONS

DEFINITIONS
To increase transparency and understanding by providing standard definitions for key terms used in the conduct process

INTERIM MEASURES
To document standard and current practices as well as the interim suspension process, which is already included in the Hokie Handbook

EXPUNGEMENT PROCESS
To provide students the opportunity to demonstrate growth and request for their conduct record to be expunged
Please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions:

Ennis McCreery
ennis@vt.edu
540-231-1410
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Member</th>
<th>Name of Member's Proxy</th>
<th>Do you approve the April 20, 2020, University Council agenda?</th>
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