

**University Council Minutes**  
**April 20, 2020**  
**3:30 PM**  
**Meeting via Videoconference**

**Present:** Tim Sands (presiding), Debra Stoudt for Laura Belmonte, Richard Blythe, Cyril Clarke, Greg Daniel, Karen DePauw, Michael Friedlander, Bryan Garey, Guru Ghosh, Edwin Jones for Alan Grant, Lee Learman, Scott Midkiff, Ken Miller, Sally Morton, April Myers, Kelly Oaks, Kim O'Rourke, Julie Farmer for Charles Phlegar, Dwayne Pinkney, Julia Ross, Frank Shushok, Robert Sumichrast, Don Taylor, Tyler Walters, Lisa Wilkes, Paul Winistorfer, Jonathan Bradley, Urs Buehlmann, Greg Fansler, John Hole, Kimberley Homer, Alan Michaels, Kerry Redican, Serena Young, Monty Abbas, Diane Agud, Eric Kaufman, Robin Queen, Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Lynn Abbott, David Bieri, Jia-Qiang He, Daniel Hindman, Mary Marchant, David Tegarden, LaTawnya Burleson, Velva Groover, Brandy Morse, Sue Teel, Janice Austin, Conaway Haskins, Inga Haugen, Glenda Scales, John Ferris, & Tamarah Smith

**Absent:** Steve McKnight, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Bob Hicok, Collin Shelton, Bettina Koch (with notice), Cayce Myers, Matthew Gabriele, Chris Lawrence, Jennifer Earley, Katrina Loan, Teresa Lyons, Khaled Hassouna, Kase Poling, Caitlyn Stokes, Hani Awni, Alexis Hruby, Sharon Stidham, Blake Barnhill, Jayme Bibbins, Conrad Briles, Kaitlyn Cole, Jack Shebat, Adi Sircar, Ryan King, & Madelynn Todd

**Guests:** Nicole Akers, Stephen Biscotte, Harrison Blythe, Chad Bolding, Lori Buchanan, Douglas Cannon, Kari Evans, Jack Finney, Dee Harris, Rachel Holloway, Sharon Kurek, Ennis McCrery, Robin Panneton, Michel Pleimling, & Stacey Wilkerson

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>). 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 Chages 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.



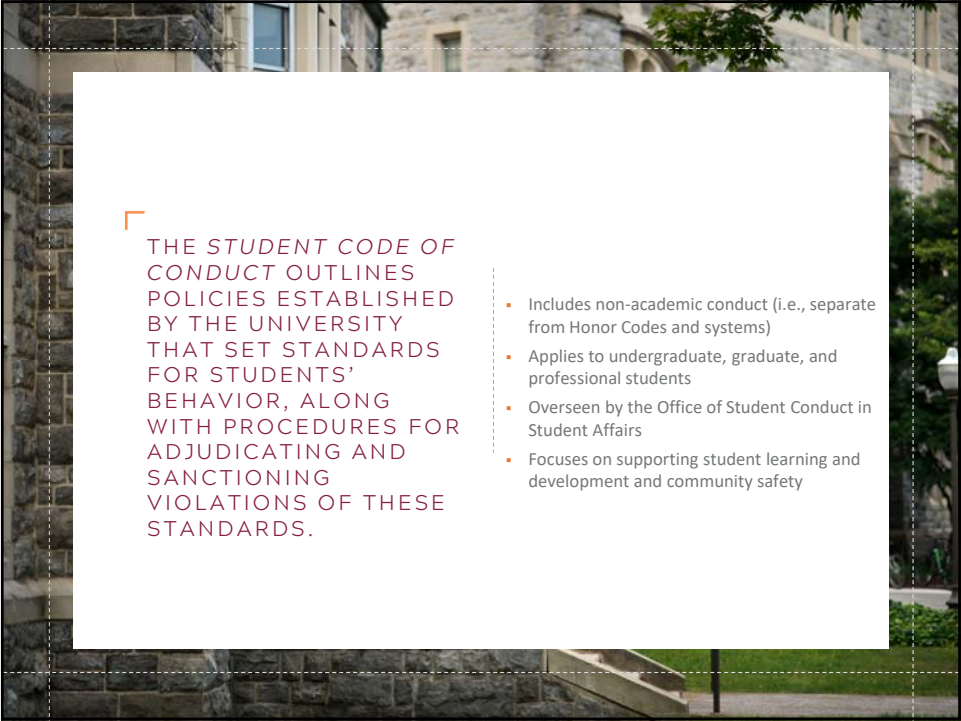
# REVISED STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL - APRIL 20, 2020

ENNIS MCCREY, 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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction	1
Section 1: Academic Success	10
Section 2: Student Organizations	20
Section 3: Career Development	30
Section 4: Financial Aid	40
Section 5: Health and Wellness	50
Section 6: Housing	60
Section 7: Transportation	70
Section 8: Dining	80
Section 9: Safety and Security	90
Section 10: Emergency Procedures	100
Section 11: Student Conduct	110
Section 12: Academic Integrity	120
Section 13: Student Rights and Responsibilities	130
Section 14: Grievance Procedures	140
Section 15: Student Support Services	150
Section 16: Student Resources	160
Section 17: Student Organizations	170
Section 18: Career Development	180
Section 19: Financial Aid	190
Section 20: Health and Wellness	200
Section 21: Housing	210
Section 22: Transportation	220
Section 23: Dining	230
Section 24: Safety and Security	240
Section 25: Emergency Procedures	250
Section 26: Student Conduct	260
Section 27: Academic Integrity	270
Section 28: Student Rights and Responsibilities	280
Section 29: Grievance Procedures	290
Section 30: Student Support Services	300
Section 31: Student Resources	310
Section 32: Student Organizations	320
Section 33: Career Development	330
Section 34: Financial Aid	340
Section 35: Health and Wellness	350
Section 36: Housing	360
Section 37: Transportation	370
Section 38: Dining	380
Section 39: Safety and Security	390
Section 40: Emergency Procedures	400
Section 41: Student Conduct	410
Section 42: Academic Integrity	420
Section 43: Student Rights and Responsibilities	430
Section 44: Grievance Procedures	440
Section 45: Student Support Services	450
Section 46: Student Resources	460
Section 47: Student Organizations	470
Section 48: Career Development	480
Section 49: Financial Aid	490
Section 50: Health and Wellness	500
Section 51: Housing	510
Section 52: Transportation	520
Section 53: Dining	530
Section 54: Safety and Security	540
Section 55: Emergency Procedures	550
Section 56: Student Conduct	560
Section 57: Academic Integrity	570
Section 58: Student Rights and Responsibilities	580
Section 59: Grievance Procedures	590
Section 60: Student Support Services	600
Section 61: Student Resources	610
Section 62: Student Organizations	620
Section 63: Career Development	630
Section 64: Financial Aid	640
Section 65: Health and Wellness	650
Section 66: Housing	660
Section 67: Transportation	670
Section 68: Dining	680
Section 69: Safety and Security	690
Section 70: Emergency Procedures	700
Section 71: Student Conduct	710
Section 72: Academic Integrity	720
Section 73: Student Rights and Responsibilities	730
Section 74: Grievance Procedures	740
Section 75: Student Support Services	750
Section 76: Student Resources	760
Section 77: Student Organizations	770
Section 78: Career Development	780
Section 79: Financial Aid	790
Section 80: Health and Wellness	800
Section 81: Housing	810
Section 82: Transportation	820
Section 83: Dining	830
Section 84: Safety and Security	840
Section 85: Emergency Procedures	850
Section 86: Student Conduct	860
Section 87: Academic Integrity	870
Section 88: Student Rights and Responsibilities	880
Section 89: Grievance Procedures	890
Section 90: Student Support Services	900
Section 91: Student Resources	910
Section 92: Student Organizations	920
Section 93: Career Development	930
Section 94: Financial Aid	940
Section 95: Health and Wellness	950
Section 96: Housing	960
Section 97: Transportation	970
Section 98: Dining	980
Section 99: Safety and Security	990
Section 100: Emergency Procedures	1000

“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*

**CLARITY AND ACCESSIBILITY**  
Reduce amount of text, define key terms, improve structure

**BROADER AUDIENCE**  
Shift from undergraduate, Blacksburg-centric approach

**POLICY AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS**  
Clarify and simplify policies, and add an opportunity for record expungement

**REVISION PROCESS**

Best practices identified:

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

01 / THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

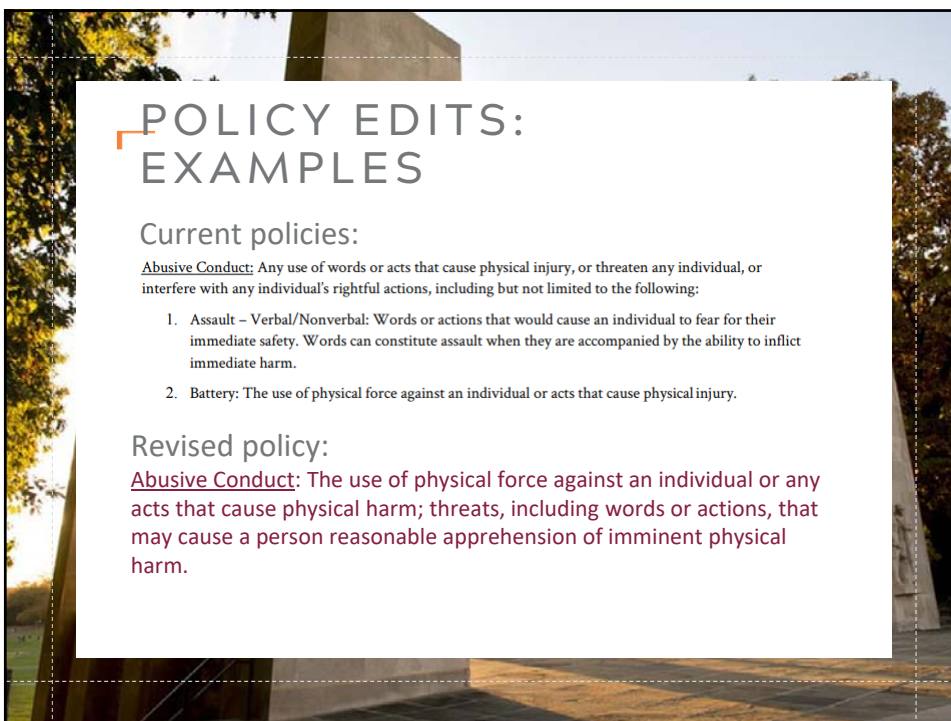
- *Hokie Handbook* being retired in favor of a stand-alone *Student Code of Conduct*, with other sections currently in the handbook overseen and published online by relevant units (e.g., Housing and Resident Life, Dining, Dean of Students); Additional university polices that may be covered under the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

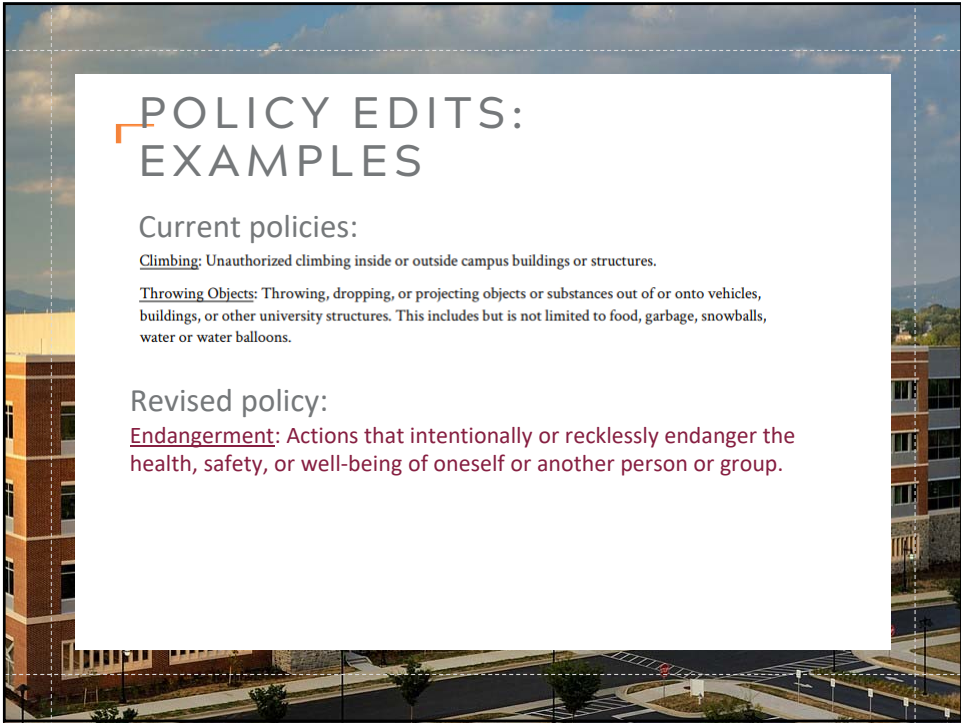
Current policies:

**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. Assault – 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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact me with  
questions or suggestions:

Ennis McCrery  
[ennis@vt.edu](mailto:ennis@vt.edu)  
540-231-1410

**University Council**  
**Results of April 20, 2020, Votes**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Name of Member's Proxy</b>	<b>Do you approve the April 20, 2020, University Council agenda?</b>	<b>Do you approve the Commission on Research Resolution COR 2019-20A (Resolution to Update Policy 13005)?</b>
Serena Young		Yes	Yes
Kimberley Homer		Yes	Yes
Laura Belmonte	Debra Stoudt	Yes	Yes
Brandy Morse		Yes	Yes
Frank Shushok		Yes	Yes
Sally Morton		Yes	Yes
John Hole		Yes	Yes
Diane Agud		Yes	Yes
Janice Austin		Yes	Yes
Kim O'Rourke		Yes	Yes
Cyril Clarke		Yes	Yes
Velva Groover		Yes	Yes
Michael Friedlander		Yes	Yes
Glenda Scales		Yes	Yes
Gaylon Taylor		Yes	Yes
Mary Marchant		Yes	Yes
Eric Kaufman		Yes	Yes
Lisa Wilkes		Yes	Yes
Gregory Daniel		Yes	Yes
Scott Midkiff		Yes	Yes
Sue Teel		Yes	Yes
Robert Sumichrast		Yes	Yes
Jonathan Bradley		Yes	Yes
Daniel Hindman		Yes	Yes
Anthony Wright de Hernandez		Yes	Yes
Lee Learman		Yes	Yes
Inga Haugen		Yes	Yes
LaTawnya Burleson		Yes	Yes
Conaway Haskins		Yes	Yes
Richard Blythe		Yes	Yes
Robin Queen		Yes	Yes
Urs Buehlmann		Yes	No
Alan Grant	Edwin Jones	Yes	Yes
Julie Ross		Yes	Yes
David Tegarden		Yes	Yes
Alan Michaels		Yes	Yes
A. Lynn Abbott		Yes	Yes
Kelly Oaks		Yes	Yes
Karen DePauw		Yes	Yes
Jia-Qiang He		Yes	Yes
Paul Winistorfer		Yes	Yes
Dwayne Pinkney		Yes	Yes
Ken Miller		Yes	Yes
Montasir Abbas		Yes	Yes
Guru Ghosh		Yes	Yes
Greg Fansler		Yes	Yes
Charles Phlegar	Julie Farmer	Yes	Yes
Bryan Garey		Yes	Yes
Tyler Walters		Yes	Yes
Kerry Redican		Yes	Yes
David Bieri		Yes	Yes