

University Council Minutes
May 4, 2020
3:30 PM
Meeting via Videoconference

Present: Tim Sands (presiding), Debra Stoudt for Laura Belmonte, 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, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Julia Ross, Frank Shushok, Robert Sumichrast, Don Taylor, Tyler Walters, Lisa Wilkes, Paul Winistorfer, Jonathan Bradley, Urs Buehlmann, Greg Fansler, Bob Hicok, John Hole, Kimberley Homer, Alan Michaels, Kerry Redican, Victoria Dashevsky for Collin Shelton, Serena Young, Monty Abbas, Diane Agud, Eric Kaufman, Bettina Koch, Robin Queen, Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Lynn Abbott, Jia-Qiang He, Daniel Hindman, Mary Marchant, David Tegarden, Velva Groover, Brandy Morse, Sue Teel, Janice Austin, Conaway Haskins, Khaled Hassouna, Inga Haugen, Tremayne Waller for Glenda Scales, & Tamarah Smith

Absent: Richard Blythe, Steve McKnight, Dwayne Pinkney, Cayce Myers, David Bieri, Matthew Gabriele, Chris Lawrence, LaTawnya Burleson, Jennifer Earley, Katrina Loan, Teresa Lyons, Kase Poling, Caitlyn Stokes, Hani Awni, Alexis Hruby, Sharon Stidham, Blake Barnhill, Jayme Bibbins, Conrad Briles, Kaitlyn Cole, Jack Shebat, Adi Sircar, John Ferris (with notice), Ryan King, & Madelynn Todd

Guests: Stephen Biscotte, Chad Bolding, Lori Buchanan, Douglas Cannon, Kevin Edgar, Kari Evans, Jack Finney, Dee Harris, Luisa Havens Gerardo, Scott Nachlis, Michel Pleimling, Ellen Plummer, & Rick Sparks

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 April 20, 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>.

Old Business

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

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 (University Council Constitution revision)

Bob Hicok presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

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 Options

John Hole presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

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 presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20N

Resolution to Establish the Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee (University Council By-laws revision)

Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2019-20O

Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science

Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

3. New Business

Commission on Student Affairs

Resolution CSA 2019-20A

Resolution to Approve the 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct and to Retire the Hokie Handbook

Victoria Dashevsky introduced the resolution for first reading and made a motion for first reading and action (commonly referred to as "waiver of first reading"). The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion for action passed. A motion was then made by Victoria Dashevsky to approve the resolution itself, and the motion was seconded. Victoria Dashevsky informed the council membership that the new format for the Student Code of Conduct will help students better understand what is expected of them at Virginia Tech, and she then introduced Ennis McCrery, Director of Student Conduct, to answer any questions. Although the resolution was reviewed by the Graduate Student Assembly; Karen DePauw noted that the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies may want to propose some changes for the subsequent version of the Code of Conduct. Ennis McCrery indicated that when she met with the Graduate Student Assembly, they discussed having a meeting next year to discuss further revision to the Code to address graduate student concerns. She added that a communication strategy will be developed to direct students where to find the code of conduct and any policies that were originally located in the Hokie Handbook. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

4. 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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity
January 21, 2020
February 25, 2020
March 17, 2020
April 21, 2020
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
March 6, 2020
- Commission on Research
March 5, 2020
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
March 23, 2020
April 13, 2020

5. Presentation on Date of Entry Change and the Registration Life Cycle

Rick Sparks, Associate Vice Provost and University Registrar, gave a presentation on the date of entry change and the registration life cycle. (presentation attached).

6. Announcements

Dr. Sands gave an update on the planning that is going on at the university to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Visitors will have a series of committee meetings virtually throughout the month of May leading up to a full virtual board meeting on June 2, 2020.

The Governor and General Assembly have decided to defer the decision on budget cuts and/or adjusting allocations to universities. The Governor has directed that discretionary spending and new hiring should be limited. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the State of Virginia was in a good position financially, and the state has a significant rainy-day fund. The Governor will request a reforecasting of state revenues in late July or early August, after which Virginia Tech should receive guidance regarding appropriations for FY2021. Virginia Tech has asked units to work on 5 percent and 10 percent reduction plans. These are just plans until the state determines what the situation will be going forward.

President Sands stated that fall enrollment and tuition revenue are uncertain. Currently international enrollment is soft due to travel restrictions and difficulties obtaining visas with many consulates closed. Hopefully some of these concerns will be resolved over the next several weeks. President Sands expressed optimism about enrollment for the fall. Virginia Tech has maintained direct communication with current students and potential incoming students in order to assure them that Virginia Tech will be as flexible as possible during this crisis.

The federal CARES Act funding has been allocated, and Virginia Tech is in the process of disbursing \$9.7 million for student aid. The student emergency fund is doing pretty well. The Dean of Students Office is the point of contact for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students who have financial need due to the

crisis. In response to a question about graduate assistantships that will lapse in the summer, President Sands explained that it will cost approximately \$1 million to extend graduate assistantships by one month. There currently is not a plan to cover systematically all graduate students on assistantships, but they are being reviewed on an individual basis as needed.

It was suggested that since some graduates have had job offers rescinded or have decided to delay their job search, there may be an increased interest in enrolling in graduate school.

There have been discussions regarding the varying instructional options for the fall semester such as face-to-face, online, or a mixed approach. President Sands was asked whether the following options were being considered:

- Larger classrooms for large classes
- Beginning the fall semester online and switching to face-to-face at a later date
- Delaying the start of the fall semester

Provost Clarke indicated that planning for the fall continues, and different stakeholders and constituent groups will continue to be engaged in the process. This week, there will be conversations with the Department Heads Executive Council, the Academic Affairs Council, and the Faculty Senate Cabinet. Virginia Tech is soliciting and receiving rich and well-informed input. Planning is predicated on the understanding that while our faculty have been enormously successful in pivoting to online classes this spring, a lot of the reputational excellence associated with Virginia Tech, especially in regards to experiential learning, requires that we make every effort to have in-person classes this fall. To accomplish an in-person fall while suppressing any resurgence of COVID-19, public health measures such as sanitization, barrier protection equipment, and a robust system of testing for COVID-19 will need to be utilized. He added that there have been discussions around delaying the start of the fall semester, but there seems to be no benefit to doing so.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m.