

**University Council Minutes**  
**September 18, 2017**  
**3:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Thanassis Rikakis (presiding), Rosemary Blieszner, Cyril Clarke, Karen DePauw, Guru Ghosh, Alan Grant, Sandra Muse for Theresa Mayer, Brenda van Gelder for Scott Midkiff, Robin Panneton for Sally Morton, April Myers, Kim O'Rourke, Patty Perillo, Angela Hayes for Charles Phlegar, Julia Ross, Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton, Charla Gilbert for Tyler Walters, Lisa Wilkes, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Richard Ashley, Janice Austin, Jan Helge Bøhn, Kevin Edgar, John Ferris, Deyu Hu, Virginia Pannabecker for Jen Irish, Chris Saunders, Tammie Smith, Dean Stauffer, Monty Abbas, Diane Agud, Susan Anderson, Eric Kaufman, David Tegarden, Lynn Abbott, Matthew Gabriele, Tom Inzana, Yan Jiao, Christopher, Zobel, LaTawnya Burleson, Sue Teel for Tracey Drowne, Brian Huddleston, Annette Bailey, Ginai Seabron, Christine Tysor, Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Alexandra Hyler, Andre Stevenson, Julia Billingsley, Rex Willis, Brett Netto, Seyi Olusina, Hans Robinson, & Robert Sebek

**Absent:** Tim Sands (with notice), Jack Davis (with notice), Michael Friedlander, Steve McKnight, Kelly Oaks, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Robert Sumichrast, Bryan Brown, Robert Bush, Anita Puckett, Nathan King, Judy Alford (with notice), Robin Lawson, Katrina Loan, Teresa Lyons, Jeannie Layton-Dudding, John Massey, Glenda Scales, & Michele Waters

**Guests:** Lori Buchanan, Jack Finney, Rachel Gabriele, Rachel Holloway, Ellen Plummer, Kerry Redican, & Angela Simmons

Dr. Rikakis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**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 May 1, 2017**

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

**3. Commission Chair Reports**

Dr. Rikakis asked the Commission chairs to present briefly their goals for the academic year.

1. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Ms. Janice Austin, Chair
  - a. Working on increasing awareness of and participation in CAPFA among A/P faculty utilizing Virginia Tech news notices, Human Resources employee resource webpage, and an informational handout for orientation packets.
  - b. Working on organizing a half-day event with a keynote speaker and a networking session for A/P faculty; to be held in spring 2018.
  - c. Collaborating with VT Engage on a community outreach project for A/P faculty across the Commonwealth.

2. Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Dr. Deyu Hu, Chair

- a. Considering collaborating with the President, University Council, and other entities on campus to find out how Virginia Tech can address bias-related issues more proactively.
- b. Reorganizing work groups based on members' concerns and interests with what is going on at Virginia Tech.
  - Diversity in Academic Mission
  - Human Resources
  - Governance and Recognition
- c. CEOD will encourage active participation and involvement into the work groups and focus on generating concrete products that the university community can utilize.
- d. Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke gave a presentation to CEOD on the framework of Inclusive VT and the Office for Inclusion and Diversity.

3. Commission on Faculty Affairs – Dr. John Ferris, Chair

- a. Considering retiree health benefits for tenured faculty.
- b. Discussing numerous questions concerning the Promotion and Tenure process.
- c. Discussing equity in access to large-scale facilities and research proposals.
- d. Discussing faculty morale, recruiting, and retention.

4. Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Kevin Edgar, Chair

- a. Will complete and communicate the anti-academic bullying initiative.
- b. Assessing and addressing graduate student food insecurity.
- c. Re-envisioning PhD including digital portfolio.
- d. Enhancing the Virginia Tech lab safety culture.
- e. Discussing diversity training requirement for graduate students.
- f. Pursuing implementation of anti-plagiarism software.

5. Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Dr. Jan Helge Bøhn, Chair

- a. Aiming to place an emphasis on elevating the importance of international advancement within the Virginia Tech community. This is paramount to building a global brand in all three of the COIA's mission areas of learning, discovery, and engagement.
- b. The COIA's objective is that Virginia Tech builds international philanthropic support for education abroad, scholarships, endowed professorships in international arenas, and investment in global research grants for faculty, to attract top-flight students, staff, and faculty globally, that is representative of a top-100 global university.
- c. Creation of a subcommittee within COIA on International Alumni Relations and Advancement.

6. Commission on Research – Ms.. Ginny Pannabecker, Vice Chair

- a. The COR Committee on Research Competitiveness will continue.
- b. Pursue the new Open Access Policy.
- c. Revision to Policy 13005, Center and University Institutes.
- d. Communication of Facilities and Administration (F&A).
- e. Updates to Faculty Handbook sections regarding research faculty.
- f. Discussing postdoctoral scholar activities.

7. Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – Ms. Tammie Smith, Chair
  - a. Continuing to review the climate survey and identify issues for CSPA to explore.
  - b. Requesting to be involved in the search for the new Vice President for Human Resources.
  - c. Researching where staff stand in Beyond Boundaries and Destination Areas. Specifically what will the expectations of staff be?
  - d. Beginning a review of the winter closing policy at the request of the Employee Benefits Committee.
  
8. Commission on Student Affairs – Mr. Chris Saunders, Chair
  - a. Discussing the physical safety and safety of expression.
    - Do students have to hide their personality to feel safe on campus?
    - It is impossible to hide what someone looks like. Does that make him or her feel unsafe?
  - b. Discussing general climate issues under a changing political landscape.
  - c. Connecting the overenrolled students with their relevant communities.
    - How do we reach out to 7,000 students and how do we help students find the group of Hokies that makes them feel at home?
  - d. Visibility of student resources and education on those resources.
    - If something happens, do students know who to go to and what that entails?
    - If someone is looking for help, we want him or her to know where to find it.
  - e. Discussing graduate student expenses and pay structure changes to increase quality of life.
  - f. Discussing general enrollment concerns.
  - g. Discussing administration's response to incidents both on and off campus.
    - Specifically at Chabad last spring.
  
9. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Dr. Dean Stauffer, Chair
  - a. The Academic Policy Committee will review and establish guidelines for the pre-matriculation Dantes Subject Standardized Test (DSST).
  - b. CUSP will study and formulate any needed policy changes and/or additions needed to support the Destination Areas, Strategic Growth Areas, and Pathways General Education Curriculum.
  
10. Commission on University Support – Dr. Richard Ashley, Chair
  - a. There are no carry-over items from the spring term and the CUS will be setting goals at the first meeting this term.
  - b. Selection of a vice chair.
  - c. Continuing presentations from the Campus Development Committee, the Energy and Sustainability Committee, and the Transportation and Parking Committee.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **Commission on Outreach and International Affairs**

Resolution COIA 2017-18A

Resolution to Recommend Authorization of the Establishment of a Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED)

Dr. Jan Helge Bøhn presented this resolution for first reading. This resolution is to transition the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE) to the Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) in accordance with Policy #13005. This change will increase visibility

and create a stronger campus presence. This will allow the center to more effectively attract and assist various stakeholders.

This center will report to the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs.

### **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2017-18A

Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Dr. Dean Stauffer presented the resolution for first reading. There is currently a workforce shortage for positions in Public Health, and there is a sizable demand for this degree. No other Virginia higher education institutions offer this degree.

A question was raised as to whether the bachelor's degree will provide students with different opportunities than the existing master's degree. Dr. Kerry Redican indicated that the Master of Public Health is for those wanting an administrative role.

### **5. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes**

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (<http://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  
March 13, 2017  
April 10, 2017
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
April 19, 2017  
May 3, 2017
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
May 11, 2017
- 
- Commission on Research  
April 12, 2017  
May 10, 2017
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs  
February 28, 2017  
March 28, 2017
- Commission on Student Affairs  
April 6, 2017  
April 13, 2017
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
April 24, 2017

**6. For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
April 27, 2017

**7. Announcement**

Dr. Paul Winistorfer asked members of University Council to recognize Ms. Sandra Muse, who will be retiring at the end of the month after 42 ½ years of service to the university. She received a round of applause.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

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## AGENDA

1. **Adoption of Agenda** Dr. Thanassis Rikakis
  
2. **Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of May 1, 2017** Dr. Thanassis Rikakis  

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web.
  
3. **Reports from Commission Chairs** Dr. Thanassis Rikakis
  - **Commission Chair Briefings**
    - Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Ms. Janice Austin
    - Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity Dr. Deyu Hu
    - Commission on Faculty Affairs Dr. John Ferris
    - Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies Dr. Kevin Edgar
    - Commission on Outreach and International Affairs Dr. Jan Helge Bøhn
    - Commission on Research Dr. Ginny Pannabecker
    - Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs Ms. Tammie Smith
    - Commission on Student Affairs Mr. Chris Saunders
    - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Dr. Dean Stauffer
    - Commission on University Support Dr. Richard Ashley
  
4. **New Business** Dr. Thanassis Rikakis
  - Commission on Outreach and International Affairs** Dr. Jan Helge Bøhn  
Resolution COIA 2017-18A  
Resolution to Recommend Authorization of the Establishment of a Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED)
  
  - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies** Dr. Dean Stauffer  
Resolution CUSP 2017-18A  
Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Public Health
  
5. **Announcement of acceptance and posting of Commission Minutes** Dr. Thanassis Rikakis

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**Dr. Thanassis Rikakis**

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**7. Adjournment**

**Dr. Thanassis Rikakis**