

University Council Minutes
February 7, 2011
3:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger, (Presiding), Don Leo for Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, John Dooley, Karen DePauw, Susan Sumner for Alan Grant, Karen Jones, William Lewis, Mark McNamee, Paul Metz, Kim O'Rourke, Sue Ott Rowlands, Jennie Hodgson for Gerhardt Schurig, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Robert Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Paul Winistorfer, Jan Helge Bøhn, Carolyn Copenheaver, Jesus de la Garza, Ross Edmonds, Frances Keene, Nathan Lavinka, Deborah Smith, Sue Teel, Bryan Cloyd, Jim Kuypers, Eric Vance, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Marion Ehrich, Debra Salvador, Bob Sturges, Judy Alford, Jean Brickey, Dan Cook, Lori Anne Kirk, Teresa Lyons, Stacey Poertner, Christal Bacon, Justin Graves, Karen Poff, Patricia Smith, Patrick Tomlin, Amanda Cronin Rumore, Jonathan Moore for Michelle McLeese, Mojtaba Taiebat, C. Taylor Quicke for Scott Bennett, Bo Hart, Charles Petty, Emily Wilkinson, Deepu George,

Absent Elizabeth Flanagan (with notice), Daniel Wubah (with notice), Steve McMullin (with notice), Leslie O'Brien (with notice), Dini Miller, Susanna Rinehart, Joyce Rothschild, Lewis Wasserman, Dave Dugas, Tom Hammett, David Vaughan, Dave Shuster, France Belanger (with notice), Wayne Scales, Jeff Chuang, Greer Kelly, Mike Ellerbrock, Maxine Lyons, Shane McCarty

Guests: Jack Finney, Natalie Hart, April Myers, Ellen Plummer, Kirk Wehner

Dr. Steger 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 December 6, 2010

Dr. Steger 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. Old Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2010-11A

Clarifications to Research Leave Policies

Ms. Deborah Smith presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. Ms. Smith introduced Dr. Jack Finney to give a brief explanation of the resolution. Dr. Finney informed the council members that the resolution clarifies language in the Faculty Handbook regarding eligibility for study-research leave (sections 3.8 and 4.9) and eligibility for research assignment (sections 3.9 and 4.10). Dr. Finney noted that study-research leave and research assignments can be granted to full-time, tenured faculty members and full-time faculty members holding continued appointments with six years of service. Requests can be made during their sixth year of service but leave cannot be taken until the sixth year is completed. Those taking study-research leave or leave for research assignment have an obligation to provide one year of service to Virginia Tech as a replacement of time on leave or pay a salary amount that is part of the memorandum of understanding. The motion passed.

4. Reports from Commission Chairs

The commission chairs had no new items to add to the reports they gave to University Council on September 20, 2010.

5. Announcements

The Big Event

Nathan Lavinka gave a brief presentation about the upcoming Big Event. Lavinka indicated that this will be the ten-year anniversary of the Big Event. The Big Event began at Virginia Tech in 2002. There were only 475 volunteers and 60 projects were completed in the Blacksburg area. Last year, the Big Event partnered with the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg and issued project request forms in with the water bills. In one day, there were 6145 volunteers and over 900 projects completed in 2010. The goal this year is to have 8000 volunteers and 1100 projects completed in one day. The Big Event is an opportunity for the Virginia Tech community to come together and volunteer their services. Lavinka made a request to the council members to consider volunteering for this event. The request is for Virginia Tech employees and students to volunteer four hours of service on the day of the Big Event. All of the tools for projects will be provided, and each volunteer will be matched to a project. There are 150 project requests already for 2011. More information can be found at www.vtbigevent.org. The Big Event will take place on April 9, 2011 (the same day as Hokie Focus). Also, several years ago, the leaders of Virginia Tech's Big Event formed a 501(c) (3) corporation named The Big Event Association. They will host the second annual conference at Virginia Tech on the same weekend as the Big Event.

Update from the General Assembly

Dr. Steger announced that the Virginia Supreme Court ruled in a case involving George Mason University that their board of visitors has the right to set policies regarding weapons on campus. To override that ruling, a bill was introduced to not allow universities to have the right to set their own policies on carrying weapons on campus. This bill has been reported out to a committee and will more than likely die.

It appears that the university will still get maintenance reserve and equipment trust fund money, but the details are not yet specified. The university hopes to get one or two capital projects as well. Some of the dollars that were originally discussed for research have been cut.

The budget amendments modifying retirement plans are still up for debate. There is one proposal that will give a five percent salary increase to employees in the VRS plans to offset a five percent employee paid contribution instead of a three percent salary increase as well as keep the two percent bonus. The university is working to ensure that there is equity between the VRS and the ORP retirement programs for university employees. When a salary increase is given, the State of Virginia funds one-third of the increase and Virginia Tech funds two-thirds of the increase. It appears that the retirement plan will turn out better than the original proposal from the Governor.

6. 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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
December 8, 2010
January 12, 2011
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
November 5, 2010
December 3, 2010
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
November 3, 2010
November 17, 2010
December 1, 2010

- Commission on Research
November 10, 2010
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
November 30, 2010
- Commission on Student Affairs
December 2, 2010
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
November 8, 2010

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m.