University Council Minutes  
February 1, 2021  
3:30 PM  
Videoconference


Absent with Notice: Timothy Sands

Absent: Steve McKnight, Kelly Oaks, Eloise Coupey, Cayce Myers, Patricia Raun, Teresa Lyons, Awad Abdelhalim, & Reena Medavarapu

Guests: Nicole Akers, Lori Buchanan, Kevin Edgar, Greg Fansler, Jack Finney, Tara Frank, Debbie Greer, Rebekah Gunn, Dee Harris, William Huckle, Jennifer Hundley, Edwin Jones, Dawn Knight-Withers, Larissa LaCour, Erin McCann, Virginia Pannabecker, John Provo, Margaret Radcliffe, Susan Short, Rick Sparks

Dr. Clarke called the meeting to order at 3:30 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 7, 2020

Dr. Clarke 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 Research
Resolution COR 2020-21A
Resolution to Establish a Scholarly Articles Open Access Policy

Rajaram Bhagavathula 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 2020-21C
Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education, and New Major, Elementary Education (PK-6)
Paul Deck 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 2020-21D**  
Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Arts in Education in Secondary Education, and New Major: English Language Arts Education, and History and Social Sciences Education, and New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Education in Secondary Education with New Majors: Mathematics Education, Career and Technical Education – Agricultural Education, and Career and Technical Education

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

4. **New Business**

**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**  
**Resolution CAPFA 2020-21A**  
Resolution to Approve the Constitution and Bylaws for the Administrative and Professional (A/P) Faculty Senate

Holli Drewry presented the resolution for first reading. The Constitution and Bylaws for the new A/P Faculty Senate were drafted by a working group led by Greg Fansler during late spring and summer of 2020. The working group and members of CAPFA worked with members from the President’s Committee on Governance (PCG) to review the proposed documents to ensure they align with the PCG’s recommendations.

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**  
**Resolution CFA 2020-21C**  
**Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs**  
**Resolution CAPFA 2020-21B**  
**Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs**  
**Resolution CSPA 2020-21A**  
**Commission on Student Affairs**  
**Resolution CSA 2020-21A**  
**Joint Resolution to Revise Shared Governance at Virginia Tech**

Bob Hicok presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is the result of the work carried out by the President’s Committee on Governance formed in 2019 and charged as follows:

In order to align our governance with the needs of a twenty-first century university and the Beyond Boundaries vision for Virginia Tech, an ad hoc committee will be formed and charged with defining a set of guiding principles for effective and equitable governance and outlining any changes to our existing system of governance required to put these principles into effect. The committee will be composed of a representative cross-section of faculty, staff, administrators, and students, and will report to the president. Upon the president's approval of the committee's recommendations, they will be taken through governance in the usual form of a resolution. The committee will be co-chaired by the Executive Vice President and Provost and the President of Faculty Senate.

Bob Hicok briefly described Virginia Tech’s current structure and process. To fulfill the VT Principles of Shared Governance, the major recommendations from the President’s Committee on Governance and the four commissions sponsoring this resolution are as follows:

- Give each senate a specific area of legislative authority and responsibility and “ownership” of at least one commission
• Make most commissions part of senates; a small number of “university commissions” will not be linked to specific senates
• Grant senates the authority to vote on resolutions from their respective commission(s)
• Implement a university mission initiative process to ensure that initiatives/changes with the potential to broadly impact Virginia Tech's educational, research, and/or outreach missions include the participation of representatives of the components of shared governance and are considered for adoption through the normal legislative process
• Create the University Council Cabinet

The recommended changes to the shared governance structure and process will give students, faculty, staff, and A/P faculty a greater determinative voice in governance and create more opportunities for ongoing input about the problems faced in the various areas and by the university as a whole.

Many of the details of this proposal are still being worked out. It is best to think of this proposal as a framework. The new constitution and bylaws of University Council and other details will be brought through the governance process for approval.

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2020-21D
Resolution to Clarify Probationary Reappointment Language in the Faculty Handbook

Bob Hicok presented this resolution for first reading. This proposal cleans up some of the language in chapters two and three of the Faculty Handbook. The language being removed in chapter two was to some extent duplicative and different from language that exists elsewhere. The language in chapter three was not specific enough about what would go on between a department committee and a department head or chair in making decisions.

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
Resolution CGPSP 2020-21A
Resolution to Retire Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 194, “Transfer Credit for Master’s Degrees”

Madlyn Frisard presented the resolution for first reading. This Presidential Policy Memorandum (PPM) was approved in 1999 to become effective in 2000; however, it was never actually implemented. The PPM originally revoked some earlier language related to the transfer of coursework for master’s degree programs. It was recently discovered that there was a discrepancy between some of the PPMs and the public-facing websites; in this case, the discrepancy was with the graduate catalog. Currently, plans of study require transfer credits to be reviewed by the advisory committee, the graduate program director, the department head, college deans, etc. The current process ensures rigorous review.

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
Resolution COIA 2020-21A
Resolution to Recommend Authorization of the Establishment of a Center for Economic and Community Engagement (CECE)

Nick Copeland presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is to establish a Center for Economic and Community Engagement that reports to the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs. This center would be an evolution of the existing Office of Economic Development. The center will support Virginia Tech’s global land-grant mission. The establishment of this center will increase its visibility and create a stronger campus presence. This project has been positively embraced by the commission and has been a long-term project under the leadership of Guru Ghosh, Susan Short and John Provo. Additional resources will not be required for the establishment of this center.
5. **Commission Chair Reports**

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

1. **Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs – Holli Drewry, Chair**
   - a. Working on the next steps in the creation of an A/P Faculty Senate, such as the election process
   - b. Reviewing and making changes to the Faculty Handbook related to the creation of an A/P Faculty Senate
   - c. Reviewing and proposing changes to the ethics and grievance procedures in relevant sections of the Faculty Handbook

2. **Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Christa Miller, Chair**
   - a. Preparing a resolution to update the membership of the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
   - b. Discussions on the progress being made with the LGBTQ+ community
   - c. Discussions on the progress being made towards digital accessibility
   - d. Continued collaboration on caucus representation in shared governance

3. **Commission on Faculty Affairs – Bob Hicok, Chair**
   - a. Looking at a system of evaluating and conveying institutional faculty service at Virginia Tech
   - b. Working with three departments to develop:
     - service audits
     - a method of batch entry of committee service in Elements
     - prototypes of dashboards that will allow faculty to review service duties within their departments
   - c. Developing a set of recommendations for the standing committees in Faculty Senate and policy oversight in the Faculty Senate generally
   - d. Reviewing Policy 6100 (Department Head or Chair Appointments)
   - e. Reviewing Policy 6105 (Periodic Evaluation of Academic Deans and Vice Presidents)
   - f. Reviewing chapter 12 of the Faculty Handbook to determine changes needed to accommodate VTCSOM tenure and tenure-track faculty

4. **Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies – Madlyn Frisard, Chair**
   - a. Developing a policy for posthumous degree in collaboration with the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
   - b. Creating a framework for better support and resources for students to locate and obtain grant funding including course development related to grant funding and writing
   - c. Reviewing the principles of doctoral residency requirements for PhD students

5. **Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Nick Copeland, Chair**
   - a. Engaging in dialog around Virginia Cooperative Extension
   - b. Monitoring situations around study abroad
   - c. Engaging in dialog around geopolitical affairs
   - d. Conversations about international research and engagement
   - e. Discussions about global alumni engagement

6. **Commission on Research – Rajaram Bhagavathula, Chair**
   - a. Resolution revising Policy 13000, which was approved at today’s University Council meeting
   - b. Revisions under way to Policy 13015
   - c. Work on a resolution to add representation from the university institutes to the membership of the commission
7. **Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – Serena Young, Chair**
   a. Joint resolution with the Commission on Faculty Affairs, Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, and the Commission on Student Affairs to revise shared governance at Virginia Tech
   b. Worked with Staff Senate’s Committee on Policies and Issues to review the Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws

8. **Commission on Student Affairs – Victoria Dashevsky, Chair**
   a. Working with the Student Budget Board (SBB) to restructure how the SBB is handled in order to bring in more student voices
   b. There is a task force on student governance that some CSA members are participating on to help determine the future of student governance at Virginia Tech

9. **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Paul Deck, Chair**
   a. The Academic Affairs Committee is working on the following:
      - Reviewing and approving a strengthened and clarified Academic Relief Policy (W grades, I grades, retroactive timelines, transcript issues)
      - Clarifying and, if necessary, re-defining what it means to be an active student, establishing policies on re-enrollment and re-admission, with the objective of working toward a continuous enrollment policy roughly analogous to that presently in place for the Graduate School
   b. Cleaning up the academic policies
   c. Work with the CGPSP on a policy on posthumous degrees
   d. Review new majors and new degrees

10. **Commission on University Support – John Benner, Chair**
    a. Evaluating potential for moped parking near Newman Library
    b. Discussions and presentation from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences about the Smart Farm Innovation Network and Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture
    c. Exploring Virginia Cooperative Extension’s renewable energy program specifically focusing on biofuels and sulfur resources, operations and overall infrastructure

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 Bylaws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
  November 11, 2020

- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
  October 27, 2020
  November 10, 2020

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
  November 6, 2020
  November 20, 2020

- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
  November 18, 2020
- **Commission on Outreach and International Affairs**  
  November 19, 2020  
  December 10, 2020

- **Commission on Research**  
  October 8, 2020  
  November 12, 2020

- **Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs**  
  September 22, 2020  
  October 27, 2020  
  November 17, 2020  
  December 15, 2020

- **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**  
  November 9, 2020

- **Commission on University Support**  
  October 15, 2020  
  November 19, 2020

7. **For Information Only**

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning  
November 12, 2020

8. **Presentation**

Edwin Jones, Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation on Extension (attached).

9. **Adjournment-**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m.
History

- Morrill Act of 1862
- Hatch Act of 1887
- Morrill Act of 1890
- Smith Lever Act of 1914
- Agency 229 1994
- VCE joint VT and VSU 1994
The Mission of VCE

Virginia Cooperative Extension helps lead the engagement mission of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, the commonwealth’s land-grant universities. Building local relationships and collaborative partnerships, we help people put scientific knowledge to work through learning experiences that improve economic, environmental, and social well-being.

Engaging communities to foster prosperity
Appropriations

- Federal
  - Smith-Lever 7,746,263
  - RREA 87,005
  - EFNEP 1,755,216
- State 38,106,218
- City/County
  - Through VT 6,792,000
  - Direct (5,000,000)
- Total $54,486,702
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

**This is primarily a programmatic organizational chart and does not include our outstanding support staff and other important relationships and functions.
Extension Faculty

• Tenure Track Specialists

• Extension Specialists

• Field Faculty
Additional Personnel

- Program Assistants/Technicians
- Administrative Staff
- Volunteers

Program Areas

- Economy
- Community
- Food
- Health
- Youth
- Family
- Natural Resources
4-H: A Lasting Impact

Needs Assessment

- Advisory Councils
- Surveys
- Big data
Engaged Program Planning Process

VCE Program Teams

- 4-H Positive Youth Development
- Family & Community Economics
- Ensuring Safe Food from Field to Table
- Healthy People, Healthy Communities
- Human Development
- Community, Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Agribusiness Management & Economics
- Animal Production
- Agronomic Crops and Horticulture
- Emerging Pests and Pesticide Management
- Natural Resources, Environmental, and Agricultural Literacy
- Natural Resources Management
- Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems
- Farm to School
Expectations

- Engaged
- Scholarly activity
- Educational Materials
- Inservice/Training
- Impact

Opportunity

- You don’t have to have an Extension appointment to do Extension!
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<th>Do you approve the agenda?</th>
<th>Do you Approve COR Resolution 2020-21A?</th>
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