
Absent with notice: Bruce Harper & Tamarah Smith

Absent: Steve McKnight, Paul Winistorfer, Lee Learman, Tyler Walters, LaTawnya Burleson, Ariana Guevara, Laszlo Horvath, David Dugas, Patricia Raun, Amanda Coleman, Amanda Leckner, D’Arrin Calloway, Miles Guth, Sharan Patnik, & Adyan Ati

Guests: Lori Buchanan, Caroline Lohr, Jeremy Brown, Jack Leff, Charlene Casamento, Kim Daniloski, Sally Shupe, Dee Harris, Kari Evans, Rachel Holloway, Debbie Greer, Tara Frank, Luisa Havens Gerardo, Anya Work, Catrice Barnes, Brittany Rasmussen, & Eric Kaufman

Dr. Sands called the hybrid meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present in person or via Zoom.

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 October 4, 2021
(Note: The October 18, 2021, meeting was cancelled.)

Dr. Sands 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. New Business

Commission on University Support
Resolution CUS 2021-22A
Resolution to Change Membership to the Transportation and Parking Committee

John Benner presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution adds an additional member to the Transportation and Parking Committee from the disability community to be selected by the Office of Equity and Accessibility or the Virginia Tech Disability Alliance and Caucus if the Office of Equity and Accessibility is unable to provide a representative. It was suggested that clarification is needed regarding the process that will be followed for selecting this new member and the need to be consistent with the appointment process for members of other committees in the governance system. Kim O’Rourke indicated that typically for each committee member vacancy, the president is provided with two nominations from which he appoints one to the committee. Kelly Oaks indicated that it was her understanding that an earlier version of the proposal was to
add two representatives to the Transportation and Parking Committee, one selected by the Office for Equity and Accessibility and one from the Virginia Tech Disability Alliance and Caucus. Benner responded that this was discussed at the last Commission on University Support meeting before the vote was taken. This resolution will be revised prior to the second reading on November 15, taking the requested changes into consideration.

4. 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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity
  September 21, 2021

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
  September 24, 2021
  October 8, 2021

- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
  September 15, 2021

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
  September 16, 2021

- Commission on Research
  September 9, 2021

- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
  September 28, 2021

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  September 13, 2021
  September 27, 2021

5. Presentation

Dr. Daniel Sui, Vice President for Research and Innovation, gave a presentation (attached) on the history and characteristics of members of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

6. Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m.
MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1900, the Association of American Universities is composed of America’s leading research universities. AAU’s 66 research universities transform lives through education, research, and innovation.

Our member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research that improves public health, seeks to address national challenges, and contributes significantly to our economic strength, while educating and training tomorrow’s visionary leaders and innovators.

AAU member universities collectively help shape policy for higher education, science, and innovation; promote best practices in undergraduate and graduate education, and strengthen the contributions of leading research universities to American society.
A map of the AAU schools, with private schools marked in blue and public schools marked in red. Five private schools in Greater Boston are not labeled separately due to space reasons: Harvard, MIT, Tufts, Boston University, and Brandeis.

Association of American Universities membership rules

“Like a country club or secret society, new AAU members can apply only by invitation and with the assent of three-quarters of member institutions.”

Phase I indicators
- Competitively funded federal research support
- Membership in national academies
- Faculty awards, fellowships, memberships
- Citations

Phase II indicators
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, state, and industrial research funding
- Doctoral education
- Postdoctoral scholars
- Undergraduate education
Changes to AAU membership

- AAU membership discontinued
  - Clark University (1900-1999)
  - Catholic University of America (1900-2002)
  - Syracuse University (1966-2011)
  - University of Nebraska - Lincoln (1909-2011)

- New AAU members since 2010
  - Georgia Institute of Technology (2010)
  - Boston University (2012)
  - The University of Utah (2019)
  - University of California, Santa Cruz (2019)
  - Dartmouth College (2019)
  - Tufts University (2021)

Virginia Tech’s AAU strategy: a two-pronged approach

“Well-done”

“Well-said”
Growing Virginia Tech’s Research and Innovation enterprise

Research = f (faculty, infrastructure, DAP, and culture)

| Any measure of research enterprise (volume and impact) |
| Quantity and quality of faculty |
| Quality of infrastructure that supports research |
| Diversity of academic programs (e.g., status of medical school, engineering school) |
| Institutional culture that values and rewards creativity, innovation, and impact |

Communication strategy for Virginia Tech’s Research and Innovation

- Who should be talking?
- To whom shall we speak (audience)?
- What?
- How?
- When/how often?
The AAU’s response to the shift toward openness was to fall back on its original mission of exclusivity.

“The time has come to create a new definition of greatness in higher learning.”
OVPRI aspires to become a model service unit to move Virginia Tech’s research and innovation enterprise from **excellence** to **eminence**.