MINUTES
UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON STRATEGIC BUDGETING AND PLANNING
January 26, 2006

PRESENT: Rhonda Arsenault, Dave Beagle, Julia Beamish, Jean Brickey, Johanna Hahn, Dixon Hanna, Scott Hurst, James Hyatt, Bernie Jortner, Mark McNamee, Sean O'Keefe, Susanna Rinehart, Dwight Shelton, Steven Sheetz (for David Tegarden), Patrick Washington, Lisa Wilkes

ABSENT: David Ford, Lindsey Leisher, Eva Marand, Robin Panneton, Robert Schubert

GUESTS: Heidi McCoy

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Budget and Financial Management, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2005 MINUTES

Mr. Shelton announced that the minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting have been electronically approved and sent to University Council to be posted on the web.

3. REVIEW OF GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Mr. Shelton provided Council members with a copy of a December 21, 2005 memo which provided an analysis of the 2006-08 Executive Budget which contains several elements that are designed to support the instruction, research, and outreach missions of higher education. Attachment 1, Elements of Governor Warner’s Executive Budget for 2006-08 Introduced December 16, 2005, provides an overview of the major elements that impact higher education and Virginia Tech, such as restructuring, salaries, enrollment, student financial assistance, Equipment Trust Fund, and Maintenance Reserve. Attachment 2 provides an overview of the incremental funding provided through the Executive Budget for Virginia Tech’s operating and capital budgets for 2006-08.

4. OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS

In response to the Governor’s proposed budget, Virginia Tech submitted amendments for consideration by the 2006 General Assembly. The proposed amendments cover areas that Virginia Tech has identified as its most critical needs. For Agency 208 Operating Budget, these are (1) additional funding for base budget adequacy, (2) funding for extraordinary energy costs, and (3) increased funding for
the Equine Medical Center for instruction support. Amendments for Agency 229 Operating Budget include (1) funding for extraordinary energy costs, (2) equipment funding, and (3) funding for the Commonwealth Staffing Initiative, an Agency 229 initiative to put extension agents and senior faculty in critical positions across the state. Virginia Tech also submitted an amendment proposing a language change to move to a higher mileage reimbursement rate, to include Agency 229. Amendments regarding Agency 208 capital projects include funding support for (1) planning for Sciences Research Laboratory I, (2) Hazardous Materials Facility, (3) supplements to the 2002 General Obligation Bond Projects for Cowgill Hall and Litton-Reaves Hall, (4) replacement of deteriorated section of Davidson Hall, and (5) supplement for the Residence Hall Project. An amendment for Agency 229 requests funding support for the planning for the Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building I.

5. GENERAL ASSEMBLY KEY DATES

Mr. Shelton provided Council members with copies of the General Assembly calendar and the House Appropriations Committee calendar, and a summary of key upcoming dates during the 2006 legislative session. Budget amendments were submitted by the January 20 due date. Crossover of legislation other than the Budget Bill (i.e. the passing of some bills between the House and Senate for action) occurs February 14. The Money Committees report budgets on Sunday, February 19. February 23 is the deadline for House action on the budget and crossover to the Senate for action. By March 7, the Conference Committee must complete its review of House and Senate budget proposals and make its recommendations. By the March 11 adjournment date, the General Assembly will vote on the budget bill. The Governor will then review the budget bill and make any additional recommendations prior to the April 19 reconvene session of the General Assembly, at which time the General Assembly will consider any actions taken by the Governor on the budget.

6. UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Dr. Mark McNamee, University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, briefed Council members on the status of the process to update the University Strategic Plan. All colleges submitted academic strategic plans on September 30. Meetings with deans, vice presidents and vice provosts, and the ad hoc University Academic Advisory Committee (UAAC) have take place throughout the fall semester to discuss various aspects of the academic plans and to evaluate academic priorities. Meetings will continue over the next few months, and a draft strategic plan which includes academic and supporting administrative plans will be presented for review and discussion of policy implications at the March retreat of the Board of Visitors. A final University Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board of Visitors for approval at the June 2006 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.