MINUTES

UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
STRATEGIC BUDGETING AND PLANNING

April 21, 2005

PRESENT:  Rhonda Arsenault, Paul Metz (for Dave Beagle), Sue Ellen Crocker, Suzanna Rinehart (for Sam Easterling), Scott Hurst, Lindsey Leisher, Mark McNamee, Robin Panneton, Robert Schubert, Dwight Shelton, David Tegarden

ABSENT:  David Ford, Thomas Fox, Dixon Hanna, Jim Hyatt, Jeryl Jones, Steve Kleiber, Melhi Madanoglu, Eva Marand, Jan Nespor, Sean O’Keefe, Lisa Wilkes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Mark McNamee, University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 17, 2005 MINUTES

Dr. McNamee announced that the minutes of the March 17, 2005 meeting had been electronically approved and sent to University Council to be posted on the web.

3. HIGHER EDUCATION RESTRUCTURING UPDATE

Mr. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Budget and Financial Management, provided Council members with an update on the higher education restructuring initiative. During Virginia’s 2005 legislative session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 2866 and Senate Bill 1327, identical bills that would give Virginia’s 16 public colleges and universities greater control of their financial and administrative affairs. The “Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act” broadened the concept of the Charter Initiative to include all colleges and universities in a three-step plan with Step 3 being similar to the original charter initiative proposal. Before signing the Act into law, the Governor made amendments that included eleven “asks” of the institutions that would commit them formally to meet basic state policy objectives. Mr. Shelton reviewed with Council members a handout summarizing the key provisions of the final, approved Higher Education Restructuring Bill, including the eleven “asks” and other key changes that were made.

A number of deadlines are established in the restructuring act, and Mr. Shelton reviewed a handout outlining the “dates of note” in the restructuring process. Management agreements negotiated with the Commonwealth would ultimately require passage by the 2006 General Assembly and become effective on July 1, 2006.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. McNamee shared with Council members that the schedule for updating the university’s strategic plan continues to move forward on schedule. This update will assist with the preparation of the university’s six-year financial plan which is one of the requirements of the higher education restructuring act. The target date for completion of the strategic plan update is the end of the fall semester of 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.