

## **University Council Minutes September 17, 2001**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Chair), Jeb Stewart (for Erv Blythe), Mark McNamee, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Joseph Merola, Melvin Gillespie, Minnis Ridenour, Terri Mitchell (for Raymond Smoot), Hap Bonham (for Richard Sorensen), Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), Ed Fox, Ryan Hartman, Bob Hendricks, Mike Koechlein, Marge Murray, Edd Sewell, Susan Sumner, Jeryl Jones, Charles Bostian (for Tim Pratt), Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Rebecca Crittenden, John Hillison, Philip Huang, Suzanne Murrmann, Ashley Marshall, Randy Stith, Althea Aschmann, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Melinda Pomeroy, Christina Coukos, Robert Kopera, Brian Montgomery

**Absent:** Bob Bates, Gregory Brown, Paul Knox, Bill Stephenson, Andy Swiger, Stephen Boyle, Mark Barrow, Wayne Durham, Jack Davis, Pat Devens, Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Rodney Gaines, Mike Martin, Debbie Wilson, Nick Amico, Candace Wiltshire

**Guests:** Marquee King, Dwight Shelton, Leonard Ferrari

### **1. Introductions**

Dr. Steger introduced Dr. Melvin Gillespie, Director of Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action and Dr. Mark McNamee, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. McNamee stated that he is looking forward to the coming year as the University moves forward with the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

### **3. Announcement of approval and posting of Council Minutes of May 7, 2001**

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the May 7, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB. (<http://intra.vt.edu/govern/>)

Before moving to Ongoing Business, Dr. Steger commented on the tragedies that occurred in the nation last week. He commended the faculty, staff and students for their support and activities during the past week. Difficult times are ahead as we continue to learn of students who have experienced losses in their families. He thanked everyone for the efforts they extended to insure that we reinforce the university community.

Dr. Steger spoke briefly about the status of the state budget. It is anticipated that the General Assembly will take some action to provide some support when they convene in January 2002. Dr. Steger asked Minnis Ridenour to comment on the Capital Budget.

Mr. Ridenour stated that although state revenues are not growing at the anticipated rate, we are well positioned for funding of some capital projects if the situation improves. He is hopeful that some capital funding will be available in the next biennium.

If state revenues are sufficient, the new base adequacy funding model would provide for funding for faculty positions, operating monies and improvements in salaries. The State Council for Higher Education, as well as other groups, has come forward acknowledging the need for this type of funding model.

Dr. Steger commented that there is generally a positive attitude among the members of the General Assembly where the majority is in favor of addressing this base adequacy funding issue for higher education in Virginia. Dr. Steger will participate in a work session in October with the new chair of SCHEV, as well as the chairs of the Senate Finance and the House Appropriations Committee. Dr. Steger is encouraged that SCHEV has actively solicited input and had a great deal of unanimity with the Council of Presidents on the budget for higher education.

#### **4. Ongoing Business**

**Council approved the following Commission minutes:**

- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
April 25, 2001
- Commission on Outreach  
May 10, 2001
- Commission on Student Affairs  
April 26, 2001

#### **5. For Information Only**

It was noted that the minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning for April 29, 2001, May 24, 2001, June 28, 2001, and August 23, 2001 were distributed for information only.

#### **6. Announcements**

##### **Reports from Commission Chairs**

Commission chairs were asked to give a brief outline of their agenda for the coming year. Dr. Steger encouraged Council members to contact the commission chairs with comments, questions or issues to be introduced into the governance system early in the year so that deliberations could begin in a timely manner.

**Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs** — Pat Hyer for Chair, Susan Angle

- Ongoing problem of differential raise amounts for administrative and professional faculty compared to teaching and research faculty.
- There are new narrowly prescribed kinds of leave for classified employees; the commission will look at whether or not the same kind of leave categories should be instituted for faculty employees.

**Classified Staff Affairs** — Chair, Mike Koechlein

- The commission will continue discussion of parking and bus service issues left over from last year.
- The return to work policy (for worker's compensation claims) was discussed.

**Faculty Affairs** — Chair, Edd Sewell

- The commission will continue working on revising the Intellectual Property Policy.
- Changes to the promotion and tenure process.
- Implications of being a top 30 research university in terms of faculty, research equipment, etc.
- Graduation issues revolving around having diplomas available at commencement and the difficulties that creates for students as well as faculty.

**Graduate Studies and Policies** — Joe Merola for Chair, Stephen Boyle

- Every member of the commission received a copy of the Strategic Plan. There will be discussions to see how well our infrastructure is aligned (in terms of graduate education and research) to meet top 30 goal.
- Also related to the infrastructure is the inadequacy of animal holding facilities for research and the impact on our research and graduate education programs.

**Outreach** — Chair, Susan Sumner

- Implementation of a team award in addition to the individual outreach award.
- The commission will meet with department and college promotion and tenure committees to get their feedback on the process using the new outreach section of the promotion and tenure report.

**Research** — Chair, Bob Hendricks

- Revision of the draft of the Intellectual Property Policy.
- Task force on research computing will prepare a white paper.
- Housing animals for research — also raised by the Commission on Research. The commissions will work jointly on this issue.

**Student Affairs** — Chair, Ryan Hartman

- Nineteen issues were identified at the first meeting of CSA. Members prioritized the issues as follows: accessibility for disabled persons on campus, cuts in the Blacksburg Transit routes, university support (financial or otherwise) for the Honor System, graduate student health plans, clearly codified expectations from supervisors for graduate students, organizational funding, instituting a recommendation program for offices that provide services to students, and child care across the university. Committees within the commission will deal with some of the issues.

**Undergraduate Studies and Policies** — Chair, Marge Murray

- The University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC), which reports to CUSP, is very close to completing the first review cycle for the Core. It is anticipated that UCCC will suggest some modifications in the Core as a result of the review.
- Management of the workload of the CUC, particularly improving communications throughout the proposal review process.
- CUC will conduct a review of policies for internal transfers into restricted programs.

**University Support** — Chair, Ed Fox

- Computer security.
- Wireless technology and its potential impact on future buildings and education.

Mitzi Vernon announced that candidates for delegate would be present at the next two Faculty Senate meetings. Jim Shuler will attend the Faculty Senate meeting on September 18. David Nutter and Creigh Deeds will attend the October 16 meeting. Faculty Senate meetings are open.

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Executive Assistant to the President

/jcd